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FBIS-NES-95-188 CONTENTS *28 September 1995*

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat Appeals to Libyan Leader To Stop Expulsions *[London MBC TV]* 1
'Arafat Adviser Appeals to Libya To Stop Deportations *[Jericho VOP]* 1
    Terms Libya's Measures 'Illegal' *[Jericho VOP]* 1
'Source' Confirms Libyan Expulsion Decision *[London MBC TV]* 1
UN Officials Cited on Expelled Palestinians *[MENA]* 2
171 Libyan Deportees Arrive in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Seven Families Expelled Stranded in Rafah *[Jericho VOP]* 2

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 12 Sep 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reportedly Informs al-Asad of Accord Details *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6
'Arafat Leaves for Signing Ceremony, Comments 6
    Stops in Paris, Meets Chirac *[Jericho VOP]* 6
    Reaffirms Importance of France's Role *[Paris TV]* 6
    Demands 'Precise and Honest Implementation' *[London AL-HAYAH 28 Sep]* 7
    Stops in London, Says 'I Got The Best I Could' *[London MBC TV]* 7
    Says 'No One Can Change the Trend' *[London ITV TV]* 8
Chief Negotiator Quray' Explains Taba Outcome *[London AL-HAYAH 26 Sep]* 9
    Claims Errors in Accord, Requests Corrections *[MENA]* 12
Various Officials React to Taba Agreement *[AL-DUSTUR 27 Sep]* 13
Official: Accord Ends 'Greater Jerusalem' Concept *[Jericho VOP]* 14
Security Official: Forces Ready To Move to West Bank *[Jericho VOP]* 14
'Urayqat Explains Elections, Names Constituencies *[Jericho VOP]* 15
Fatah Committee: Settlements Obstacle to Taba Accord *[Jericho VOP]* 15
Opposition Declares Day of Mourning Over Taba Accord *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 15
PFLP-GC Chief Criticizes Accord With Israel *[Tehran International]* 15
Executive Committee Member: Tunisia Meeting 'Illegal' *[SANA]* 16
PLO's Qaddumi on Taba, Syria, Libya *[London AL-HAYAH 27 Sep]* 16
PLO Official Condemns Expulsion of Palestinians *[London INDEPENDENT 27 Sep]* 17

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat Arrives in Washington for Signing Ceremony *[Jericho VOP]* 18
Israeli, PA Officials See Problem With Jericho *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Commentary Criticizes Taba Accord, Sets Criteria *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Sep]* 19

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Uprising Within GIA Reportedly Kills 20 *[Paris International]* 21

FFS Leader's Son Killed in Constantine Attack *[Paris International]* 21
Memo Clarifies Procedures for 'Terrorism' Victims *[Algiers Radio]* 21
Independent Provincial Commissions Installed *[Algiers TV]* 21
Opposition Leader Rejects Nov Elections *[London AL-HAYAH 26 Sep]* 21
Candidate Complains of 'Pressures' on Supporters *[Algiers TV]* 22
Bencherif Hopes To Get 'Massive' Saudi Aid *[Algiers Radio]* 22

Egypt

Musa Comments on Palestinian-Israeli Agreement *[MENA]* 23
Mubarak Commemorates 'Abd-al-Nasir's Anniversary *[MENA]* 24
Killing of 'Christians' in Upper Egypt Cited *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 25 Sep]* 24

Libya

Reform Movement on Regime 'Repression' of Opposition *[London AL-HAYAH 27 Sep]* 25
Al-Qadhdhafi Offers To Pay Andreotti's Defense *[JANA]* 25
UN Delegate Denounces 'Distortion' on Lockerbie *[JANA]* 25

Mauritania

Communique Issued on Algerian Prime Minister's Visit *[Nouakchott Radio]* 26

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Relations With Egypt, Demonstrations *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 26 Sep]* . 28

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Minister Receives U.S.-French-British Letter *[KUNA]* 29
Government Grants Loan to Syria *[KUNA]* 29

Yemen

President Discusses Inter-Arab Ties, Other Issues *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Sep]* ... 29
President Issues Revolution Anniversary Statement *[Sanaa Radio]* 35

IRAQ

U.S. Policy Examined, Said To Lack 'Rationalism' *[AL-QADISIYAH 14 Sep]* 38
Failure of U.S. 'Deception Operation' Seen *[Al-JUMHURIYAH 16 Sep]* 40
Paper Comments on Sanctions, UN Report *[INA]* 42
Industry Minister Meets Russian Counterpart *[INA]* 43
Council Authorizes Financial Awards for Informants *[Baghdad TV]* 43
Kurd Leader Gives Interview on Plans, Issues *[London International]* 43
Kurd Group Denies Report of Attack *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 45
Editorial Condemns Turkey's Actions, Policy *[ALIF BA' 26 Jul]* 45

ISRAEL

Cabinet Endorses Taba Accord, Prisoner Release *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Majority in Question as Knesset Sets 5 Oct Vote *[THE JERUSALEM POST 28 Sep]* 47
Peres Leaves for Signing Ceremony, Comments *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 47
Rabin Comments on Agreement Before Leaving for U.S. *[Jerusalem TV]* 48
Rabin Views Relations With Palestinians *[Vienna NEWS 28 Sep]* 48

- Rabin, Peres Discuss Prisoner Release Issue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
- Ministers Meet With Weizman on Prisoner Issue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
- Netanyahu Criticizes Prisoner Release Agreement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
- Labor Party Chief Fearful of Accord Consequences *[Paris Radio]* 50
- Resident Arab Officials React to Taba Agreement *[HA'ARETZ 27 Sep]* 50
- Accord Said To Include 'Secret' Paper on Hebron *[DAVAR 27 Sep]* 51
- Kahana Hay Leader Promises 'Bloodshed' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Sep]* 51
- Poll: Bare Majority of Public Backs Agreement *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Sep]* 52
- Closure Imposed on West Bank, Gaza Until 1 Oct *[Jerusalem TV]* 52
- Abu-Marzuq Extradition Request Cites New Evidence *[Jerusalem Radio]* 52

JORDAN

- Journalists, Businessmen Reportedly on Iraqi Payroll *[AL-HADATH 27 Sep]* 53
- Al-Kabariti Denies Amman Summit Harms Syria *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 25 Sep]* 54
- King Confers With U.S. Defense Secretary *[Amman Radio]* 54
  - Further on King's Talks With Perry *[Amman Radio]* 55
- Prince, Deputy Prime Minister Receive U.S. Commander *[Amman Radio]* 55
  - Joint Chiefs of Staff Head Meets Peay *[Amman Radio]* 55

LEBANON

- Buwayz on UN General Assembly, Amman Summit *[Beirut Radio]* 56

SYRIA

- Christopher, Baker Cited on Peace Process *[Damascus TV]* 57
- Al-Shar' on Negotiations, Israel, Lebanese Track *[AL-ITTIHAD 24 Sep]* 57
- Al-Shar': Amman Summit Weakens Country's Stance *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 25 Sep]* 58
- Press Views Faults in Taba Agreement *[Damascus Radio]* 58
- Paper Urges UN To Adhere to Its Own Resolutions *[Damascus Radio]* 59

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Kabul Offers 'Peace Talks' With Taleban, Factions *[AFP]* 60
  - Spokeman Issues Government Offer *[Kabul Radio]* 60
- Report Addresses Taleban Plans To Attack Kabul *[THE TIMES 26 Sep]* 63
- Anti-Pakistan Protest Demonstration Held in Kabul *[IRNA]* 63

India

- Daily Views 'Threat' From U.S. Arms to Pakistan *[RAJASTHAN PATRIKA 23 Sep]* 63
- Army Official Denies Attack on Minister's Helicopter *[AFP]* 64
  - Spokesman Cites 'Constant Sniping' *[Delhi Radio]* 65
- Pakistan 'Sinister Plan' for Bombing Said Unearthed *[Delhi Radio]* 65
- Kashmir Probes Charges of Human Rights Abuses *[Delhi Radio]* 65
- Medics Claim Hostages in Kashmir 'Quite Sick' *[AFP]* 65
- Radio Says No Contact With Abductors for 7 Days *[Delhi Radio]* 66
- Minister Announces 3 'Major' Power Projects *[Delhi Radio]* 66
- Space Organization Announces Schedule for Programs *[Delhi Radio]* 66
- Radio on Government Efforts for Economic Reforms *[Dehli Radio]* 66

Iran

- Student Rally Condemns U.S. Presence in Gulf *[Tehran Radio]* 67

Radio Commentary Criticizes Arab-Israeli Accord *[Tehran Radio]* 67
Article on PRC's 'Final Piece' for 'Islamic Bomb' *[London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 24 Sep]* 68
Sources Cites Use of 'Kurdish Card' in North Iraq *[MENA]* 70
Minister Urges Reinstatement of Iraq in Oil Market *[Tehran Radio]* 70
UN Envoy for Afghanistan Mission Arrives, Comments *[Tehran TV]* 71
Ayatollah Khamene'i Delivers Speech, Praises Army *[Tehran Radio]* 71
Guards' Commander Addresses 'Popular War Efforts' *[IRNA]* 72
Efforts Reportedly Started To Curb High Prices *[SALAM 16 Jul]* 72
Stock Transactions Reportedly Rise by 60% *[RESALAT 23 Jul]* 73
Daily Announces Distribution of Coupons in Tehran *[RESALAT 23 Jul]* 73
Four Meat Coupons Reportedly To Be Announced *[RESALAT 25 Jul]* 74
Export Center Announces Export Price of Products *[RESALAT 23 Jul]* 74
Daily Says 'Economic Crisis' Threat to Press *[London KEYHAN 20 Jun]* 74
Daily Calls New Press Law 'Official Strangulation' *[Berlin NAMEH-YE MARDOM 4 Jul]* ... 75
Propaganda Chief Comments on Forming Ministry *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 18, 19 Jun]* 76

Pakistan

Bhutto Terms Brown Amendment 'Diplomatic Victory' *[Islamabad TV]* 84
Minister Arrives in New York for UN Session *[Islamabad Radio]* 85
    Meets Chinese, Iranian Counterparts *[Islamabad Radio]* 85
    Foreign Minister Addresses Assembly *[Islamabad Radio]* 85
    Stresses 'Neutrality' in Afghan Policy *[Islamabad Radio]* 86
Indian Helicopter Said Intercepted at Border *[Islamabad Radio]* 86
Report on Leghari View of Nuclear Plan, Economics *[THE NATION 22 Sep]* 86
Report on Air Force Plans for F-16's, Mirages *[JANG 25 Sep]* 87
Government, MQM Teams Begin Discussion *[THE NEWS 21 Sep]* 88
Karachi Talks Suspended Over Murder Controversy *[AFP]* 88
    Suspension of Talks Said Unjustified *[Islamabad TV]* 89

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat Appeals to Libyan Leader To Stop Expulsions

NC2709214495 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In his interview with MBC today, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat renewed his appeal to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to reverse a decision to expel Palestinians from Libya in the current regional circumstances.

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I hope my brother Mu'ammar will rescind these measures, because the Palestinians have had enough tragedy. I hope he will not add to our tragedies.

At least we are Arab [word indistinct] and we work together in the name of pan-Arabism and Arab brotherhood, which impose numerous obligations. I hope this tragedy will end as soon as possible with a wise decision from my brother Mu'ammar. [end recording]

'Arafat Adviser Appeals to Libya To Stop Deportations

JN2709153095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 1245 GMT 27 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Ibrahim Abu-Daqqah, human rights adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by Ghadah Mansur; place and date not given; from the "Today's Events" feature — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Mansur] Ibrahim Abu-Daqqah, the president's adviser for human rights: Some 1,500 Palestinians were expelled from Libya recently and it has been reported that the Libyan Government ordered the expulsion of the rest of the Palestinians within 48 hours. There are many other reports in this vein. For example, it has been reported that Libya set up a camp on its border to receive more deported Palestinians. What about those people?

[Abu-Daqqah] I am extremely astonished by this decision by sisterly Libya under the current difficult circumstances experienced by the Palestinian people and leadership. We are still suffering and working to establish the institutions of the Palestinian state. We need support to maintain the Palestinian identity and build the institutions of the Palestinian state. I cannot understand the timing of sisterly Libya's decision under these difficult circumstances in particular. In my view, this decision is parallel to the security siege imposed on the liberated and occupied Palestinian territories. It is really shameful that the Libyan position is in parallel with the Israeli position under the current circumstances in particular. First of all, we condemn the siege imposed on sisterly Libya and its people. However, as we condemn the siege imposed on the Libyan people, we condemn the Libyan decision to deport 30,000 Palestinians. This is a mass punishment by the Libyan regime of defenseless and innocent Palestinians. Through the Voice of Palestine, the voice of just peace and the voice of the Palestinian people working for freedom, independence, and the establishment of the Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital, I appeal to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan Government, and the Libyan people to stop this mass expulsion and mass punishment. As brothers, I appeal to them for continued support, which we badly need. We appeal to the Arab brothers and friendly foreign states to support us at this difficult stage to build the state institutions and not to increase our suffering and pain. We had enough suffering and pain over the years of spiteful occupation. The UN Relief and Works Agency, the International Committee of the red Cross, and all human rights institutions should take a just and humane position on this mass expulsion. [passage omitted]

Terms Libya's Measures 'Illegal'

JN2709201795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Advocate Ibrahim Abu-Daqqah, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for human rights, denounced Libya's decision to deport about 30,000 Palestinians. He said the decision is illegal and inhuman and contravenes all international norms and conventions. In a statement during the news conference organized by the Information Ministry at the Rashad al-Shawwa Cultural Center in Gaza this evening, Abu-Daqqah said: At a time when the Palestinians reject the siege imposed on the brotherly Libyan people, they also reject the deportation of Palestinians residing in Libya. Abu- Daqqah said that our people had expected Libya to support them as they build their national institutions on the path toward the establishment of their independent state.

President 'Arafat's adviser for human rights appealed to all international institutions and organizations and the governments of Jordan and Egypt to intervene to put an end to those coercive measures.

'Source' Confirms Libyan Expulsion Decision

NC2609184995 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Within hours the deadline that the Libyan authorities have given to 30,000 Palestinians to leave the country will expire, but the direction they will take is still unknown. A senior Palestinian source in Gaza has confirmed this news to MBC, while Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has appealed to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to reverse the decision.

While the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks was initialing the agreement to expand self-rule, the Libyan authorities decided to expel Palestinians living in Libya within 48 hours at most. Libya has expelled hundreds of Palestinians in the past few months in protest against the peace talks. [passage omitted]

UN Officials Cited on Expelled Palestinians

NC2609165695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Sources at the Cairo office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] have stated that 1,500 Palestinians working in Libya are now heading for the Egyptian-Libyan borders, as part of the expulsion campaign conducted by the Libyan authorities against Palestinians living there.

Panos Moumtzis, a UNHCR spokesman who visited al-Sallum crossing yesterday, has stated that security men at the Masa'id Libyan checkpoint told him that Libyan authorities will build a camp to receive Palestinians leaving Libya. In a statement today, the spokesman added that he had seen tents being prepared for Palestinians on Libyan territories.

In another development, a spokesman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] has stated that 76 Palestinians are at the Rafah border crossing awaiting the Israeli authorities' permission to cross into Gaza. The UNRWA spokesman pointed out that more that 150 Palestinians had crossed the al-Sallum crossing on their way to Jordan via Rafah. These Palestinians had travelled to Libya from the West Bank via Jordan and are carrying Israeli laissez passers that allow them to return to the West Bank. The spokesman added that the Jordanian authorities had set up a camp in al-'Aqabah to facilitate their travel through Jordanian territories to the West Bank via the King Husayn bridge, the crossing point through which they travelled.

Jordanian authorities do not permit Palestinians to return to the territories that used to be under its control except through the crossing point from which they departed.

171 Libyan Deportees Arrive in Gaza

TA2709115095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] One hundred and seventy-one Palestinians expelled from Libya arrived on the Israeli side of the Allenby Bridge at noon today, later proceeding to the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the newcomers, who had been deported to Egypt, made their way from al-Nuwaybi' to the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah aboard a ferry and then proceeded to the Allenby Bridge.

Security sources told our correspondent there is no reason why residents of the territories who left the West Bank for the Gaza Strip after 1967 should not return to the territories, provided they do not pose a security risk.

Seven Families Expelled Stranded in Rafah

JN2709160195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1245 GMT 27 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun; from "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Seven Palestinian families expelled from Libya are still stranded on the Palestinian-Egyptian borders because the Israeli occupation authorities at Rafah's southern entrance are not allowing them to enter the homeland to visit their relatives in the Gaza Strip.

Ziyad al-'Abid, official in charge of the Liaison Committee at the Rafah Crossing Point, said President Yasir 'Arafat met with the seven families, who number 36 people, as he was leaving for Tunis yesterday. The president promised them he would work on resolving their problem as soon as possible.

Some of the Palestinians who have been stranded on the Palestinian-Egyptian borders for more than 20 days now are ill. The group includes old men, women, and children. They all sleep in a waiting hall on the Egyptian side of the borders.

Al-'Abid said the Palestinian side is offering them all the humanitarian aid they need and three meals a day. He added that the Israelis are preventing them from entering Gaza despite the fact that they possess visit permits issued by the Israelis. He said the Israelis fear that these citizens may stay in Gaza.

The Palestinian official in charge of the Liaison Committee at Rafah Crossing Point said he hopes this problem will be resolved soon, especially since an agreement was signed by the Palestinians and Israelis and will be finally signed in Washington tomorrow.

The stranded citizens urged the world community and humanitarian organizations to intervene to resolve their problem and to end their tragedy.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 12 Sep

NC2409155495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 12 September edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Unions Ask President To Try MB Members in Civilian Courts
2. AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Subpoenaed for Questioning on Article
3. Detainees at al-Fayyum General Prison Tortured; Some Dead
4. Israel Angry at Report on Sultan Involvement in POW Killings
5. EHRO Seminar Wants Government To Take Measures on POW Issue
6. Labor Party Higher Committee Discusses Internal, External Issues
7. Report Says AL-SHA'B Cannot Be Prevented From Publication in U.S.
8. Article Condemns Government Weakness Over POW Affair
9. Labor Leader Addresses Democratic Revolutionary Forum in Libya
10. Report Explains Why AL-NUR Did Not Appear on Wednesday 6 Sep
11. Column Condemns 'Regime' for Referring MB Leaders to Military
12. Mashhur Hopes Government Follows His Proposals on MB Trials

UNIONS ASK PRESIDENT TO TRY MB MEMBERS IN CIVILIAN COURTS

Page 1 carries an approximately 700-word report, continued on page 8, by Qutb al-'Arabi and Khalid Yunus on the proceedings against the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] leaders who have been referred to the military courts. The report says the military prosecution started investigations with the MB members on Sunday, 10 September. After reviewing what happened during the session, the report presents some reactions to the referral of the MB leaders to the military prosecution. The Council of the Journalists' Union condemned this measure and confirmed that "it goes against the constitution, particularly the principles of justice." The Council expressed surprise at the decision to refer MB members to military courts. It called on the president to stop the referral decision and present the prisoners before civilian courts. The doctors' and lawyers' unions also condemned the referral decision and called on the president to refer the prisoners to civilian courts.

AL-SHA'B CHIEF EDITOR SUBPOENAED FOR QUESTIONING ON ARTICLE

Page 1 also publishes a 70-word report that the Prosecutor General's Technical Bureau subpoenaed AL-SHA'B chief editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn to interrogate him on a report published by the newspaper in its 28 July issue with the headline "The Son of the Minister Returned to Egypt to Practice Thuggery." A number of lawyers and other journalists will attend the interrogation which takes place at 1000 on Saturday, 16 September.

DETAINEES AT AL-FAYYUM GENERAL PRISON TORTURED; SOME DEAD

A 50-word report on page 1 by Husayn al-Qamhawi says that prisoners in al-Fayyum General Prison are being tortured by the officers of the prison. They have not been allowed any visits for 4 months. The detainees said some of the inmates have already died of torture and health deterioration. They said the management cut water supplies from 0700 until 2100.

ISRAEL ANGRY AT REPORT ON SULTAN INVOLVEMENT IN POW KILLINGS

A 400-word report on page 1, continued on page 8, cites a report published in the Israeli newspaper DAVAR which says that the Egyptian authorities have intensified security around Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan after AL-SHA'B published reports on his involvement in killing Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars. The staff at the Israeli Embassy are living in fear now. The report says: "The Israeli Foreign Ministry expressed its anger to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Foreign Ministry for not denying allegations made against Ambassador Sultan." A report published in DAVAR notes that "Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan, who recently visited Cairo, will ask Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa when they meet to issue an official denial of what has been published in AL-SHA'B."

EHRO SEMINAR WANTS GOVERNMENT TO TAKE MEASURES ON POW ISSUE

Page 1 publishes a 250-word report continued on page 8 by Yusuf Sa'd on concerns expressed by the Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO] about the fact that the Egyptian Government has delayed presenting any information on the Egyptian POW's massacre. EHRO affirmed that this will hamper the nongovernmental and international human rights organizations from performing an effective role on the POW's issue. EHRO held a seminar on Sunday night in which a large number of politicians, intellectuals, thinkers, and men of law took part. "The participants in the seminar called on the Egyptian Government to take all the necessary local and international measures to try the Zionist criminals," the report said. They also asked the government to remove all obstacles before civilian organizations so that the issue of the POW's could acquire its due importance locally and internationally. In addition, they want the government "to compel the Zionist enemy to carry out serious investigations, in the presence of international observers known for their neutrality and honesty in order to reveal the names of the officers and military leaders who killed the POW's and covered up for the crime."

LABOR PARTY HIGHER COMMITTEE DISCUSSES INTERNAL, EXTERNAL ISSUES

Page 1 publishes a 1000-word report which is continued on page 8 on discussions during a meeting of the Labor Party's Higher Committee. The Committee reviewed internal and external developments during the meeting. The Committee expressed "great regret over what the authorities did in referring their political rivals to military courts." The Committee condemned this decision and demanded that it be canceled immediately. It asked that citizens be tried before civilian courts. The Committee expressed its belief that trying the MB leaders before military courts is considered "a dangerous attempt to ruin the basis of the election process." The Committee also noticed the increasing number of laws that shackle freedoms and constitute a danger to the freedom of the citizen and the journalist, and demanded that such laws be canceled immediately. The Committee called on the opposition parties to join hands "to confront the illegal and unconstitutional measures" of the authorities. The Committee also reviewed regional and international matters. It condemned the siege on the Arab nations, particularly Iraq and Libya, and demanded that it be lifted immediately. It also called for concerted efforts to restore relations between Egypt and Sudan to what they were before the crisis. The Committee also condemned Israeli measures against the Palestinians and attempts to judize the land. It demanded that "all dealings with the Zionist enemy be stopped and supported all efforts to resist capitulation and normalization." The Committee condemned the Israeli behavior in killing POW's—which goes against international law. It demanded that the government should take action to take hold accountable all those involved in these killings. It condemned the presence of foreign forces in the Arab world and demanded that they be withdrawn. The Committee discussed various other issues such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Israel's nuclear program, the Turkish incursion into Iraqi territories, and the situation in Chechnya. The Committee concluded that it has great confidence in the people and their ability to recognize their interests and insisted on their right to express their opinions freely.

REPORT SAYS AL-SHA'B CANNOT BE PREVENTED FROM PUBLICATION IN U.S.

A 400-word unattributed report on page 2 discusses the methods used by Egyptian intelligence to prevent AL-SHA'B from being published in the United States. The report begins by telling a joke about the methods used by Arab intelligence agencies, whereby they enter into competition with the Russian and U.S. intelligence agencies to hunt a rabbit in the woods. The Russian and U.S. agencies use scientific methods to find the rabbit, but the Arab agencies are found in a copse with a wild donkey tied to a tree. They were flogging the donkey and ordering him to admit he was a rabbit. The moral of the joke is that Arab intelligence agencies depend on brute force to extract untrue confessions from their victims, the report concludes. The joke is then extended to apply to the case of Jamal 'Allam, the Egyptian citizen residing in the United States who republishes the AL-SHA'B newspaper there. He was arrested upon arrival in Egypt, beaten, tortured, and abused, and then released without his passport or other documents, until he vows to stop publishing AL-SHA'B in the United States. This story reflects the mentality gripping the intelligence agencies in the Arab world, the report maintains. "Dear gentlemen, AL-SHA'B or any other newspaper cannot be prevented from reaching the United States because it can be sent using a computer, thus avoiding the regular mail service," the report notes. The only way AL-SHA'B can be prevented from entering the United States is by destroying all computers in Egypt, or eliminating all editors of AL-SHA'B and members of the Labor Party using weapons of mass-destruction, or referring all members of the Labor Party and newspaper editors to military courts.

ARTICLE CONDEMNS GOVERNMENT WEAKNESS OVER POW AFFAIR

Page 3 publishes a 1000-word article by Dr. 'Abdallah Hilal entitled "The Crime of Killing the POW's and the Impossible Peace." He maintains that the crimes the Israelis committed against the Egyptian POW's express the vileness of the enemy, but also the extent of negligence and carelessness on the part of our rulers. The writer says: "The Egyptian people were shocked when our government's reaction was confined to merely asking the enemy to provide them with the results of the trial of the murderers, if, that is, a trial takes place at all." He sarcastically wonders whether the criminals will try themselves, since those who committed the crimes are heroes in the eyes of their government and people. Hilal says the Egyptians should do the same thing the Israelis do, which is to track down those they consider criminals and try them themselves. He says it is a shame that Egypt allows one of those who killed Egyptians to reside among us in Cairo. He laments the fact that the government is so powerless and too weak to do anything. Hilal asks the family members of the POW's to send any documents or information they might have to AL-SHA'B or EHRO so that this information can be documented and filed. He also says the government can do a great deal, such as refusing to accept the papers of the new Israeli ambassador and freezing cooperation agreements until the criminals are handed over and compensation is paid. He believes there are also other methods "such as holding free elections so that those who can discipline the enemy come to power. This alone can frighten the enemy because they know how much the Egyptian people hate them. This is an important message we have to get across to the enemy for it to understand that all the agreements it has imposed on our rulers are null and void and will not continue, because those who have signed them do not represent their people."

LABOR LEADER ADDRESSES DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY FORUM IN LIBYA

Page 4 publishes a 1500-word dispatch by Mamduh al-Shaykh from Tripoli, Libya, reporting on the fifth round of the Democratic Revolutionary Arab Dialogue Forum which took place there recently. The Labor Party participated in the Forum with a delegation headed by Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri. Other Egyptian opposition parties also took part. Al-Qadhdhafi addressed the opening session, and Ibrahim Shukri spoke during the meetings of the political committee. He criticized the UN's decision canceling an earlier decision which equated Zionism with racism. "He called for supporting the Jerusalem issue and not forfeiting its Arab identity, and said: The issue of Jerusalem accomplishes full agreement between Muslims and Christians because it is an issue that unites us in confronting the enemy," the report says. The report cites statements by members of the Labor and other parties. The rest of the report quotes at length from the final statement issued by the Forum.

REPORT EXPLAINS WHY AL-NUR DID NOT APPEAR ON WEDNESDAY 6 SEP Page 5 publishes an 80-word explanation on why AL-NUR newspaper did not appear on Wednesday, 6 September. The security organs allegedly prevented the newspaper from being published because the headlines were provocative. The headlines were: "A Proposal.. Mubarak King of Egypt.. Mubarak's Leadership of the National Democratic Party is the Reason Behind Corruption in Political Life." The item explains: "These headlines did not please the security organs, so they asked that the newspaper not be printed. And so it was not. And long live democracy."

COLUMN CONDEMNS 'REGIME' FOR REFERRING MB LEADERS TO MILITARY

Page 12 publishes the 400-word "Country Men" column by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus in which he discusses the trial of the MB leaders before the military courts. He reviews previous three instances in the history of Egypt when trials were referred to the military courts, but maintains that this is a new and unprecedented situation. The defendants in this case have not been charged with high treason and were not caught with illegal weapons on their person. Their crime is to have reformed the MB. 'Abd-al-Quddus maintains: "This is an affront to the Armed Forces, whom we all respect. What does the army have to do with trying civilians?" He believes these trials distort Egypt's reputation abroad. He notes that they indicate what he has previously repeated: "That one of the characteristics of the ruling regime which is suffocating us is backwardness." This regime, he notes, is not fit to rule Egypt. He concludes by saluting the MB leaders who are being tried, and says: "The losses of the ruling regime in trying you, o men, are many times more than any losses you will incur."

MASHHUR HOPES GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS HIS PROPOSALS ON MB TRIALS

Mustafa Mashhur writes a 1500-word article on page 5 in which he advises the MB leaders in prison to be patient and to hang on because God always heeds the prayers of the patient. He says that some people might see this patience as weakness, when in actual fact it is a strength and virtue. He says: "The enemies of Islam in the world are deceived by their own material power and the weakness of the Muslims. They started oppressing and tyrannizing the Muslims as we today see in Bosnia, Palestine, Kashmir, Chechnya, the Philippines, and elsewhere." He advises the Muslims not to lose heart, but that these attacks should make them unite further and resort to their God and shari'ah. Mashhur says: "Despite the fake media campaigns the government has waged against the MB, everyone has seen the true image of the Brothers, which is that they are loyal to their homeland, peaceful, and far-removed from violence and extremism. They offer help and services where they can to the citizens wherever they may be," as was clear during the crises of the floods and earthquake. He notes that all political forces and intellectuals in the Egyptian arena have condemned the MB trial referrals to the military courts. He says: "They are wondering: If these detainees are accused of some kind of crime, why were they not tried before the regular courts? Why is the military institution being involved in intellectual matters, thus creating sedition among the various groups of society? Or is the intention to cut time short to prevent these mature people, which are considered the cream of society, from running in the elections, since the military courts are known for their speed in implementing orders without taking into consideration the measures of true justice?" He concludes that Egypt is in dire need of stability to realize the necessary reforms, and this stability will not come except through launching freedoms and holding free elections. He hopes God will enlighten the officials to follow his proposals in the interest of the homeland and its citizens, whether rulers or subjects.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reportedly Informs al-Asad of Accord Details

JN2709142595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the Palestinian Authority, has informed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad of the contents and details of the recent Taba agreement through the Syrian Charge d'Affaires in the Tunisian capital.

'Arafat Leaves for Signing Ceremony, Comments

Stops in Paris, Meets Chirac

JN2709202195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat held a news conference in Paris today after a meeting with French President Jacques Chirac, during which he said that Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank will begin 10 days after the official signing in Washington.

Asked about the prisoners in occupation jails, 'Arafat said that they will be released in three stages. The first stage will be immediately after signing the agreement. The second stage will be before holding the elections. The third stage will be after that. President 'Arafat added that he personally asked the Israeli prime minister and his foreign minister to include Shaykh Ahmad Yasin among those prisoners who are scheduled to be released.

Upon his meeting with President 'Arafat, French President Jacques Chirac hoped that the National Authority will strongly and effectively take part in the Euro-Mediterranean conference, which will be held in Barcelona. The French president also stressed the importance of establishing a special European fund to aid the National Authority in the fields of housing and labor.

Reaffirms Importance of France's Role

LD2709141395 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1200 GMT 27 Sep 95

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, at Orly Airport, by unidentified announcer in the studio — live; 'Arafat speaks in Arabic with simultaneous translation into French]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] On his way to Washington, where tomorrow he will sign the agreement on autonomy in the West Bank, Yasir 'Arafat, as we will see, made a stopover in Paris, where he met the president of the republic this morning.

We did not mention this in the headlines but we are delighted to welcome Yasir 'Arafat to interview him live in this edition, just a few minutes before he flies to Washington to sign this peace agreement.

Thank you for agreeing to give us this short interview. Could one consider, Mr. Arafat, this stopover in France as a symbol stressing perhaps the importance of the links of France and Europe with this peace process and with the future particularly, even though the agreement will be signed in Washington?

['Arafat] The truth is I do not consider the role of France important only at this stage but as far as the PLO leaders, Palestinian people, and the whole of the Middle Eastern region are concerned. It has been so throughout the process, in which France has played a special role. Our ties are historical, cultural, and political. We also share the Mediterranean Sea.

The role of President Chirac is not just a mere French role or a mere European role but a role of an international dimension, for which we are indebted to him. I had the pleasure and honor of meeting President Chirac a short while ago today.

[Announcer] Finally, Mr. Arafat, the agreement is good news. Everybody is pleased but one has now to defeat what one might call the extremists of both sides, in Hebron particularly?

['Arafat] I would like to remind you that the agreement signed between France and Algeria, which General de Gaulle called the peace of the brave, is similar to the one we have signed. We and Israel signed a peace of the brave. So I use the same term used by General de Gaulle because this peace needs a lot of courage from both sides in order to overcome all the obstacles that could undermine the peace process.

[Announcer] Thank you Mr. Yasir 'Arafat. You are going to take off any time now to Washington, where you will sign this peace agreement. Thank you for accepting our invitation to be interviewed on our 1200 GMT bulletin.

Demands 'Precise and Honest Implementation'

MM2809094995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Rafiq Makhluf in Washington, Randah Taqiyy-al-Din and Arlit Khuri in Paris, Ruba al-Husari in Jerusalem, and Samir Nasif in London: 'Arafat: Difficulty Lies in Implementation, Withdrawal Begins in 10 Days"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat stressed yesterday that Israeli forces will begin redeployment 10 days after the transitional period agreement is signed in Washington today. 'Arafat told AL-HAYAH during his stopover in Paris, where he met with President Jacques Chirac before moving on to London to meet with British Prime Minister John Major, that the difficulty the agreement could face lies in implementation, urging that the implementation should be "a precise and honest implementation of what has been agreed." [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Paris 'Arafat said that the difficulties that could face the agreement are represented "in the implementation. The first phase agreement was supposed to be implemented within three months, but the implementation took 14 months. Thus I demand that what has been agreed should be implemented precisely and honestly. And without doubt I demand the guaranty of the cosponsors of the peace conference, the European Union, other states, and also the brothers who sponsored the new agreement on Egypt's territory, President Husni Mubarak, and all those interested in peace in the region."

He added that the "peace in the Middle East cannot be limited to the Palestinians and Jordanians in addition to the Egyptians. It should also be established with the Syrians and the Lebanese so that it becomes a just and comprehensive peace."

Asked whether he was taking a particular message to the states that he would visit before the actual signing of the agreement, namely Jordan, Paris, and London, he said: "Without doubt there are numerous tasks and important issues that I will raise with all the leaders that I meet, whether here in France, in Britain, or on the periphery of the signing ceremony. We expect a great deal from France as a friendly state that has stood by the Palestinian people in difficult circumstances. We expect it to maintain this position, as it has always done."

Asked about France's intention to play a political role in the peace process in addition to the economic role, he said: "There could be a big role for France. France has its position and its own standing. President Chirac has his own standing not only in France but at the international level as well. We must not forget that the European group will be organizing the observers' supervision of the Palestinian elections."

Asked about Libya's decision to expel the Palestinians and Lebanon's decision to impose entry visas on Palestinians, and whether he was going to ask Jordan to make endeavors in this connection, 'Arafat said: "I ask my brothers in Libya, President Mu'ammar in particular, to halt those unjust measures against the Palestinians. As for my brothers in Lebanon, I tell them as a brother: Show kindness toward your Palestinian brothers."

On the Hebron settlements problem which the agreement has not tackled, 'Arafat said: "According to the agreement, Hebron will be treated like the other Palestinian cities." [passage omitted]

Stops in London, Says 'I Got The Best I Could'

NC2709185095 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat tonight said he did not get all he wanted from the Taba agreement but he got the best he could get. He stressed that the Palestinian side did not accept the transitional stage for nothing. This came in an interview held with 'Arafat by our colleague Mahfuz Bin-Hafri at Heathrow Airport while the Palestinian president was en route to Washington to sign the agreement tomorrow.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] In our negotiations, any negotiations, we cannot get everything we want, just as the other side cannot get everything it wants. Ultimately the negotiations are a battle of wills and compromises [preceding word in English] over many things. The basic question you should ask is: Does what we have agreed upon now go along with and befit what was agreed upon and signed in Washington and Cairo? I can tell you with great certainty, yes. I did not get everything I wanted but I got the best I could under the circumstances.

[Bin-Hafri] The negotiations were very difficult and the going was tough. Would it have been...

['Arafat, interrupting] Do you know how long? Fourteen months. These negotiations were supposed to start and we were supposed to assume powers over the inhabited areas in the West Bank in July 1994. See how persistent and patient we have been. [end recording]

Says 'No One Can Change the Trend'

MS2809070595 London ITV Television Network in English 1800 GMT 27 Sep 95

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Peter Snow in London; from the "Channel 4 News" broadcast — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Snow] I asked him first whether he believed this latest agreement with Israel did in fact open the door to the possibility of a Palestinian independent state?

['Arafat] You know from the beginning we were looking for our independence. And no doubt what had been agreed upon in Taba recently means that the DOP [Declaration of Principles] which we had agreed upon in Washington and in Cairo and signed there had started this mechanism. Especially you know that we had delayed in this implementation of this second stage more than one year.

[Snow] Yes we're one year behind, but what does that give you in terms of a target...

['Arafat] The most important thing that for the first time now the Palestinian national authority is controlling now the whole populated area of the West Bank as we are in Gaza and Jericho. Which means now all our people are now under one command.

[Snow] But the first breakthrough was in Gaza and that for you represented, after all, a withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza. On the West Bank this is a redeployment of Israeli troops not yet a withdrawal. Are you satisfied with that state of affairs?

['Arafat] Yes, we can't jump over the stages which had been agreed upon. But if you remember many oppositions again of the Oslo agreement, again of the DOP were saying 'Gaza first and last', you remember, now we say no, this is the second and the most important stage because this is the redeployment of the whole populated area in the West Bank through which we can be able to start directly our free democratic elections.

[Snow] The biggest problem for you in negotiating this has been Hebron. Has been the settlers in Hebron and how they should be looked after, the Israeli troops are going to remain in part of Hebron. In your heart of hearts do you think the settlers will still be there in 1999?

['Arafat] If they want to be Palestinians, I am offering them Palestinian nationality. If they want to be Palestinians why not?

[Snow] That is their option?

['Arafat] In the final stage there are some four main subjects will be delayed for then, for the last stage. Jerusalem, the settlers, the refugees and the borders.

[Snow] So this question of settlers can be put off until the very last stage, can be put off until 1999 as far as you're concerned?

['Arafat] We're definite it will be on the agenda, no doubt. Sooner or later it will be on the agenda.

[Snow] And what about Jerusalem?

['Arafat] The same, Jerusalem is on the agenda.

[Snow] You still want it?

['Arafat] You have to remember that it is the [word indistinct] center and the holy city for the Palestinian from the beginning of the history. I have a solution for Jerusalem.

[Snow] What's the solution?

['Arafat] This [word indistinct] why not to make foundation in Jerusalem. Why not to be the foundation of the peace of braves.

[Snow] It sounds very good.

['Arafat] Capital for two peoples. Capital for two states as in Rome — the capital of the Vatican, and the capital of the Italian government.

[Snow] So you give up of it wanting to be just an Arab capital, you are prepared for it to be an Arab and a Jewish capital?

['Arafat] I'm speaking about the Arab east part which has been occupied in 67, I must [word indistinct] about the west part. and we are not in need in this case for Berlin Wall.

[Snow] No Berlin Wall but you're prepared to share east Jerusalem as two capitals?

['Arafat] Not share, not share. No I am speaking about Jerusalem as a whole

[Snow] As a whole, so the east would be yours and the west would be theirs?

['Arafat] Yes. And don't forget at the same time, for your information, we are approaching from celebrating the most historic and [word indistinct] history. In the two thousand years of the [word indistinct].

[Snow] For the millennium it would be a great celebration.

['Arafat] No doubt about it.

[Snow] Let me ask you finally president, when you shake hands tomorrow on this deal in Washington, will it represent to you half way towards an independent Palestinian state, three quarters of the way, where are you?

['Arafat] This is our trend, the trend of the history and no one can change the trend of the history.

[Snow] So you think you will see an independent Palestinian state in your lifetime?

['Arafat] Definite. At least if not me the others. Because I am strong believer.

Chief Negotiator Quray' Explains Taba Outcome

MM2709143995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 95 p 4

[Interview with "Chief Negotiator" Ahmad Quray' by Ruba al-Husari in the Abu-Days suburb near Jerusalem on 25 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Husari] Critics of the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement say that it only provides control of a small part of the West Bank. Are they justified?

[Quray'] Actually the agreement does not secure control of all the West Bank. The Declaration of Principles agreement is based on a phased and gradual approach. As we know, the first phase was Gaza and Jericho, and that ended successfully despite some obstacles. Now we have the West Bank phase, which is the most important in the transitional period. It begins with redeployment or withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the Palestinian towns, villages, camps, and hamlets in the West Bank. The aggregate area of that populated region is 4 or 5 percent (of the area of the West Bank), but under this agreement we have managed to get 31 percent. Now all the towns, villages, camps, and hamlets as well as the land linking them in the Palestinian countryside have become one unit as a first step. Let us not forget that there will be another redeployment later on, after the elections, which will be in three stages and will complete the boundaries of Palestinian jurisdiction over all the West Bank and Gaza. That excludes the issues to be discussed in the negotiations on the final phase.

[Al-Husari] What area of West Bank territory will come under Palestinian jurisdiction after the completion of the three stages?

[Quray'] I think we should ask what area of the West Bank would be left, because basically the entire West Bank should come under Palestinian jurisdiction and under the Palestinian Authority [PA] which, I can now say, is the future Palestinian state. In other words it will be the entire area minus the settlements which constitute 8 percent, Jerusalem which constitutes 1 percent, in addition to the 3-5 percent now termed the border military areas. Negotiations on all of these will begin in May 1996. Everything else, that is 87 percent of the West Bank, will be under Palestinian jurisdiction.

[Al-Husari] Hebron has been a major obstacle throughout the negotiations. It has been the difficult issue. What is permanent and what is temporary in the security arrangements agreed regarding Hebron?

[Quray'] Hebron was an extraordinary battle. The Israelis did not want any withdrawal at all from Hebron, nor did they want any redeployment, elections, or Palestinian forces there. Hence the battle, and not an easy battle at that. The battle began three months ago when we began to identify the towns and villages. Hebron was always excluded. In the beginning they even excluded Bethlehem and Ramallah, although these were tactical exclusions. But as far as Hebron was concerned, the exclusion was planned and programmed. I will not go into the details of the battle we fought over Hebron nor the Arab and international intercessions which accompanied the negotiations. (I will just mention the intercession of) the United States and Egypt. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak interceded directly several times and so did King Husayn. All these intercessions and the firmness of the Palestinian position carried us to the position that the Palestinians are an exception and security arrangements for the settlers are the essential point. [sentence as published] Therefore Hebron will now be a Palestinian town and there will be redeployment there. There will even be withdrawal from the Israeli Army's headquarters, which the people of Hebron call "the building." Some 400 Palestinian security men will be deployed in Hebron with their equipment and arms. In Hebron we did not get everything we wanted but I believe that we got 90-95 percent of what we wanted. I believe that the remaining 5 percent will undoubtedly come.

[Al-Husari] The next stage of negotiations is supposed to start in May 1996, in other words at a time when the Israelis and especially the Labor Party will be at the height of the election battle. Is it practical to start in such circumstances?

[Quray'] The question of how the negotiations will be conducted then is one issue and the elections are another issue. I do not wish to anticipate events but to us that date is sacrosanct and should be respected. We would then feel that we stand on the same platform alongside our Arab brothers who did negotiate a permanent situation and a permanent settlement. We were negotiating in stages before. The Israelis might have some difficulty but they would have to face it, particularly as the issues to be discussed will be painful to them. They include the issue of Jerusalem, which to us is the capital of the state of Palestine; the issue of the settlements, on which we would accept nothing short of vacating or dismantling them; and the issue of the refugees and repatriation or compensation, which is also one of the constant Palestinian principles. (There is also) the issue of the Palestinian borders and the entity which will emerge and which will be nothing but a Palestinian state. So the negotiations will be hard and bitter and will continue until 1998.

[Al-Husari] In the event that the Likud Party assumes power, do you believe that, first, it will abide by the signed agreement and, second, that it will deal with the Palestinian leadership which it now refuses to recognize?

[Quray'] I do not believe that any Israeli government would cancel a commitment made by a previous government. The Labor Party's commitments have been upheld by the government and approved by the Knesset. It is therefore an official and legitimate agreement. As to whether the Likud would or would not deal with the Palestinian leadership, that is up to it. We will deal in accordance with our agreements and will continue our negotiations with the government in office, whether it is a Labor government or a Likud government.

[Al-Husari] Do you not fear that if the Likud Party assumes power it might concentrate on negotiations with Syria and put the Palestinian file aside? It has expressed interest in the Syrian track even while in opposition.

[Quray'] The only possibility is that there will be an Israeli government. As regards its shape and whether it will be a Labor, Likud, or any other government, it will have to abide by the signed agreements. Its method of work may prove to be more complex, but we will deal with the government in office.

[Al-Husari] In your view, does the tension on the Palestinian streets during and after the negotiations denote rejection?

[Quray'] I do not expect our people to unanimously support the agreement. They have suffered a lot and endured a lot. They vary in their acceptance or rejection. Some will reject anything just for the sake of rejection. Some will reject it because it runs against their convictions and what they believe in, and some, who are subservient to foreign circles, will change with the change in attitude of those circles. And some see this process as the only way of fulfilling our people's rights. So opposition is legitimate, respected, and desired, because in the absence of opposition nothing is respected. It is the safety valve.

[Al-Husari] Why have you dropped your main request for the release of all the detainees held in Israeli prisons?

[Quray'] The agreement stipulates that the first batch would be released after Thursday's signing. That will include the women, the sick, those who have served two-thirds of their sentence, the juveniles, and the elderly. I believe that the total number is 1,100-1,500. The second batch will be released on the eve of the elections, and the last batch will be released before the start of the negotiations on the final stage next May. There is a commitment that everyone will be released by then.

[Al-Husari] Do the provisions regarding the number of Council members and the Council's powers fulfill your aspirations?

[Quray'] Eighty-two is not a bad number, because it has transcended and aborted the political situation that the Israelis tried to create, that is a situation whereby an executive council was elected. We had insisted on a legislative council. In the end that is what was agreed on — a legislative council which, frankly, I call a house of deputies. It may lack some powers but that is what, with its 82 members and speaker, it will be. That is in addition to the separate election of the head of the executive authority. The council will have various financial, foreign, and economic committees like any other parliament.

[Al-Husari] What will be the link between that council and the Palestine National Council [PNC]?

[Quray'] The PNC will remain the main higher authority. The new council will be a council for the Palestinian executive authority on the ground but it will not determine the future of the Palestinian people or even ratify the agreements with Israel. The PNC does all that. The new council will be tantamount to just one of the PNC's committees, serving the current transitional period only.

[Al-Husari] Is there not a need for a new mechanism for the PNC's work, particularly as one of the justifications for its existence is the Palestinians in the diaspora?

[Quray'] It is too early to contemplate any alternative to the PNC or the PLO. That would not be right. As regards regulation of the relationship between the two councils, that does not pose a problem and will be done, but the elected council cannot and absolutely will not be acceptable as a substitute because that would be destructive. The PNC is a Palestinian legislative body which must be preserved until the completion of the negotiations on the final status and the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's rights and their ratification by the PNC. Then, that is after the entity and borders are defined and maps drawn up, the matter can be submitted to it.

[Al-Husari] One of the provisions of the agreement mentions abrogation of the National Charter, which talks about the destruction of Israel, and sets a date for that. Would that not cause a problem, considering the opposition to it in the PNC?

[Quray'] There has been a commitment since the Oslo agreement and the mutual recognition, and more than one deadline has been set but not met. Now the Israelis are pressing in that direction and set the deadline of two months after the elections, but what the agreement stipulates is that the PNC will be summoned to a meeting to make a decision. The text does not stipulate that the PNC will agree to cancel those articles [about destruction of Israel]. So it is up to the PNC, but I say that some articles in the Charter have become burdensome and have been overtaken by events, so their continuation would only be an encumbrance.

[Al-Husari] Some Palestinians fear that the elections would be a one-time event and that the elected council would remain even if the negotiations on the final stage were delayed for years. Is there any guarantee that the elected council would be temporary, not permanent?

[Quray'] The elections will be held once because they are for the transitional phase only, not for a permanent situation. We expect that after the negotiations on the final status a new entity would emerge and with it a new authority on the ground and a new horizon. There will be no one left called evacuees or refugees. Those who choose to return will return, and relations with those who remain abroad will be regulated somehow. So this council will not be the council of the new entity. The Declaration of Principles stipulates that the transitional period will not exceed five years. There is a pledge by its signatories including the U.S. President and his secretary of state as well as the Russian foreign minister. If the individuals change, the states and their institutions will still be committed.

[Al-Husari] Could the "Oslo-2" agreement be considered an improvement on the Declaration of Principles agreement?

[Quray'] "Oslo-2" is one of the "Oslo-1" steps and one of its implementation stages. I negotiated there and I negotiated here, and I believe that the new agreement has produced more than I had expected from "Oslo-1." That includes the direct election of the head of the executive authority, the election and the number of members of the council, and the committees stemming from it. I consider all that combined to be a step forward. Then there is the question of voting in Jerusalem, which I consider quite satisfactory. The matter of counting voters in Jerusalem from house to house is also a step forward.

Then there is the question of the area of the territories regarded as populated territories. I believe it was fair and more than some people expected, because, according to the geography experts, the area of the populated territories is not more than 7 percent but we got about 31 percent. We introduced many amendments to the provisions of the Cairo agreement, especially in relation to the judiciary and the legal appendix. So, in the final analysis, this agreement is a good translation of the Oslo agreement even though in some aspects it is less that the "Oslo-1" agreement.

[Al-Husari] After you initialed the agreement in Taba you said that it constituted the foundation of the Palestinian state. What are the elements of the state that you see in the provisions of the agreement?

[Quray'] The most important point is that there is territory and authority on that territory. That territory is not confined to one specific area. We are spread throughout the map of the West Bank. None of the border villages or the villages around Jerusalem was excluded. All these indications mean that the Palestinian entity will exist across all that area. That represents the reinforcing cement that will build the state. Second, there is the nature of the institutions that will be built, whether the executive authority, the legislative authority, or the judicial authority, and the powers given to them. They are the real nucleus of a Palestinian state. Add all that to the security forces which we will have and to the aspirations and rights of our people, and, I believe, you will see that the nucleus of the Palestinian state has begun, for the first time, to shift from paper to the ground. That has very great significance.

[Al-Husari] Who will negotiate the final phase and who will sign the agreement on that final phase?

[Quray'] The PLO will continue to lead the negotiations until the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The executive or national authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the elected council will be instruments of the PLO, not substitutes for it. The PLO is the sole capable, qualified, and recognized representative of the Palestinian people at home and abroad, and it will be the one that will lead the negotiations on the final phase and the one that will sign. Then it will become like the male bee which stings and then is martyred. A new situation and new formulas will then arise, and there will be a state. The PLO will then become a party or disappear.

[Al-Husari] Do you expect the Executive Committee and the Central Council to approve the agreement before you proceed to Washington?

[Quray'] Not everyone will be satisfied, but I will not anticipate events. I believe that the new atmosphere is not bad, and there are those who appreciate all the efforts made in the negotiations. We respect the opposition, and I believe that if there were no opposition we should create one, because it is the only guarantee that there will be no deviation. At the same time we should not try to portray the agreement as something that it is not. There it is with its points, provisions, and appendixes, and they have to decide. They all constitute part of the leadership. What is required is not that we lie but that we show them the agreement as it is. I believe that its provisions are satisfactory.

[Al-Husari] Will you be a candidate in the elections, when they take place?

[Quray'] That is premature. I would have no objection if I found people who would elect me.

[Al-Husari] What were the most difficult moments in the Taba negotiations?

[Quray'] They were all difficult, but the most difficult was perhaps the discussion of the West Bank maps. It was very tense. What they (the Israelis) offered in the beginning was some stars scattered on the map of the West Bank, no more, leaving out very massive empty areas and vast settlement areas.

The Hebron issue was also a severe and bitter one. It was an endless fight. The issue of the detainees was only resolved in the last 10 minutes, when we said that there would be no agreement. The question of the map linking the Jerusalem and the Abu-Days district with al-'Ayzariyah, al-Sawahirah, and al-'Ubaydiyah was only resolved in the final minutes.

These negotiations started last December, not recently, and continued quietly away from the spotlight until March in an attempt to build the structure and elements of the agreement. Then in the period from April to June there was an attempt to fill that structure with some substance. Then in July and after that attempts were made to bridge the views and close the gaps. Four of us, representing the Palestinian side, worked silently and quietly from the beginning. I had with me 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, Hasan Abu-Libdah, and Hasan 'Usfur. That was the group which worked quietly away from the spotlight for seven months.

[Al-Husari] Did you feel that time was a pressure factor?

[Quray'] Yes, plus other pressures such as the American pressure in the last week.

[Al-Husari] Was there anything that you wanted to achieved in this agreement but could not?

[Quray'] Yes.... I wished that the schedule for the completion of the Palestinian structure had been specified to the day, in other words that it had been known what would happen in each month of the three stages subsequent to the redeployment, so that I would be able to see at the end the boundaries of the geographical jurisdiction. At any rate, although the agreement we reached did not fulfill the maximum aspirations, it was better than I expected, especially since it is a complex agreement with all its issues interlinked.

Claims Errors in Accord, Requests Corrections

NC2709163595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1502 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 27 Sep (MENA)—Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', minister of economy in the Palestinian National Authority, has stated that there are some pending issues that require negotiation with the Israeli side. These will be decided upon within the next couple of days before signing the transitional second stage agreement in Washington [as received].

Quray' clarified in an interview with MENA's correspondent in Tunis today that there is one issue requiring some decisions before the agreement is signed in Washington. This is the issue of when the Israeli army's redeployment will start. The Palestinian and Israeli sides agreed that this should take place 10 days after the signing. He said: We have discovered that the texts say something different. Therefore, Israel must go back on this point and correct it.

Fatah member Abu-'Ala', who took part in the meetings of the Palestinian leadership yesterday in Tunis, added that there are other issues that will be discussed soon, such as electricity. Discussion of this matter will start after signing the agreement. There is also the issue of the area of Jericho. It has been agreed that this matter should be discussed in a meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin 10 days after signing the agreement.

In his interview, Quray' stressed that it is very important to implement the agreement reached between the two sides.

Quray' added that the process of releasing the Palestinian detainees will start soon after signing the Washington agreement. He said the first batch of detainees will be released immediately after the signing. This batch consists of detained women and girls. He noted that this is a very important issue for every Palestinian family. In addition, as part of the first batch, those detainees who have served two-thirds of their time in Israeli detention centers will also be released immediately after the signing.

He clarified that the second batch of Palestinian detainees to be released will include detainees who have already served over 10 years in detention centers, in addition to Arab detainees. They will be released before the Palestinian election process begins. The third batch will be released during the final stage of negotiations.

Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', one of the ranking Palestinian negotiators, said the PLO is the executive body and the authority that approves all Palestinian activities, particularly those relating to Palestine and the fate of the Palestinian cause. The PLO Executive Committee and the Central Council have approved the Declaration of Principles. This second agreement is the second part of the Declaration of Principles. Therefore, it has been presented to the Executive Committee for approval to give it constitutionality, because the agreement, in the first place, is between the PLO and Israel, not between the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

Regarding the condition the Executive Committee placed on its approval of the agreement, namely that the Israeli army should start deploying the forces 10 days after the agreement is signed in Washington, Abu-'Ala' said this will not be a point of conflict, but it is very important to amend this point before the signing in Washington.

Abu-'Ala' clarified that the texts in the agreement say that redeployment will start 10 days after the agreement is signed and will take place gradually, city by city, until it is completed in the city of Hebron. He said the Executive Committee did not request any amendment to the texts or change in the agreement, but that the copy that reached them had a mistake in it, either intentional or typographical. This should be rectified before the agreement is signed in Washington.

Various Officials React to Taba Agreement

JN2709164595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Sep 95 p 26

[Report by Kamal Zakarinah and Amal al-Sa'ih in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Taba agreement, initialed by the PLO and the Israeli Government last Sunday, is drawing different reactions from Palestinian, Jordanian, and Arab circles.

While some people view it as a positive step toward establishing an independent Palestinian state and believe the Palestinian negotiator was able to wrest Palestinian rights with patience, some others believe it relinquishes more Palestinian rights as part of the policy of concessions that began with the Oslo agreement of 1993.

AL-DUSTUR interviewed some Jordanian and Palestinian officials on the subject. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, believes the Taba agreement divides the land, the people, and the Palestinian national rights and endangers the Palestinian people's unity and national interests, as well as the PLO as a representative of the Palestinian people, by canceling the PLO Charter before achieving any of the goals of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The new agreement, Malluh also said, allows the Israeli occupation to maintain its control of the land, security, and Palestinian resources, including water resources, and disrupts the geographic unity of the West Bank territories.

He also believes that the most serious element in the new agreement is that it defines the final status solution in advance, maintains the administrative rule under Israel's sovereignty as an alternative to independence, and creates new problems along with the problem of Jerusalem such as Hebron and the West Bank's 20 holy shrines.

Taysir Khalid, member of the PLO Executive Committee, believes that the agreement falls within the political framework of the Oslo agreement of 1993 and the Cairo agreement of 1994. He said that the agreement is an attempt to apply the Jericho example to the rest of the West Bank territories.

The agreement divides the West Bank territories and maintains more than 70 percent of them under Israel's control.

Through that agreement, Taysir Khalid added, the Israeli Government is trying to define the final status of the West Bank by isolating Jerusalem and entrenching its annexation, by strengthening the settlements and guaranteeing their security, by building new bypass roads, and by confiscating Palestinian lands.

He also said that the powers to be given under the agreement are less than those enjoyed by the civil administration in all areas and that their term of reference would be Israel's military administration.

He also said that the agreement would reorganize the occupation in the West Bank and that redeployment in the cities would be like withdrawing soldiers from the prison yard to place them around the prison walls to effectively control the situation, adding that the agreement was based only on Israel's security considerations.

Taysir Qub'ah, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council, said this agreement was another step toward implementing the Oslo-Cairo accord by relinquishing more Palestinian rights and national goals, dividing the land and the people, isolating the countryside from the cities, and forcing the Palestinian people to live in separate areas under Israel's control.

He also said that although occupation would shrink and the Palestinian Authority would spread to new areas under the agreement, 70 percent of the land would remain under occupation. This will encroach on our people's right to water and to the city of Hebron and will also harm the issue of the prisoners and detainees, as well as other issues pertaining to national sovereignty such as Jerusalem and the removal of the settlements.

The agreement, he added, has deprived the settlement process of its international term of reference and made of Israel's security and the requirements of Israeli elections a higher term of reference by ignoring Palestinian and international legitimacy resolutions on our just cause. He called for adhering to the rights of the Palestinian people, to the PLO and its National Charter, and to a just solution based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, which call for the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement in Jordan, said the agreement has revealed the false promises made to the Palestinian people to gain time and entrench the Israeli occupation. The agreement divides the west Bank into isolated cantons under Israel's control and maintains the Israeli occupation forces in the city of Hebron and all Palestinian villages in violation of the Oslo agreement, which stipulates that Israeli forces should leave populated Palestinian areas, except Jerusalem and the settlements. The agreement, he said, also supports the alleged Jewish right to the Ibrahimi Mosque of the city of Hebron and to the holy city of Jerusalem by banning this city's residents from exercising their right to stand in the elections and forcing them to vote through post offices.

Nazzal also said that several major issues remain to be resolved such as the confiscation of lands, the settlements and their expansion, the prisoners, and the deportees.

The Israelis are still delaying the release of Palestinian prisoners by freeing limited numbers, although the peace process necessitates the release of all the prisoners. [passage omitted]

Official: Accord Ends 'Greater Jerusalem' Concept

JN2809092495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khalil al-Tufakji, member of Palestinian delegation to Taba negotiations, has said that according to the Taba agreement, the Palestinian villages surrounding occupied Jerusalem, particularly the villages of al-'Ayzariyah, Abu Dis, and eastern al-Sawahirah, will be under Palestinian rule.

Al-Tufakji said the Taba agreement terminated the concept of greater Jerusalem.

Security Official: Forces Ready To Move to West Bank

JN2609152495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Ziyad al-Atrash, official in charge of the Security Liaison Committee, stated that the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which was initialed in Taba, will begin two weeks after it is finally signed in Washington on 28 September, in accordance with this agreement. Maj. Gen. al-Atrash added: Plans will be worked out to implement this agreement during this period of time.

In an exclusive statement to the Voice of Palestine, he said that 5,000 Palestinian troops will return to the homeland from abroad to carry out their duties in the West Bank, in addition to 7,000 troops from the homeland. He added that Palestinian troops in all police and security branches will total 30,000 in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He also pointed out that this number can increase when needed.

Al-Atrash asserted that the positions will be received gradually in a way that will not create a security vacuum. He said that evacuating the Israeli troops from the densely-populated cities and areas is a basic matter. He also pointed to the fact that the Palestinian forces will first receive powers and carry out duties in Janin, and later in the remainder of the Palestinian cities and villages.

Al-Atrash added that there will be no fixed Israeli checkpoints impeding the freedom of movement between Palestinian cities. However, he did not rule out the possibility of erecting emergency checkpoints sometimes. He pointed to the setting up of the Regional Committee for Security, RCS [preceding word in English], which will work as a joint daily operations room in the West bank and the Gaza Strip to resolve all daily problems and overcome daily obstacles.

Maj. Gen. al-Atrash added that the Palestinian forces have for some time been fully prepared to assume all responsibilities and duties once they move to the West Bank. The Palestinian forces will also deploy in Hebron. He said the initialing of the agreement was delayed due to Israeli procrastination.

'Urayqat Explains Elections, Names Constituencies

JN2709083095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Local Government Minister Sa'ib 'Urayqat said that five election centers will be opened in Jerusalem. They are the al-Barid [post office] in the old city, Salah al-Din street, Shu'fat, al-Tur, and Bayt Hanina.

'Urayqat pointed out that any citizen from Jerusalem who has an address in the West Bank can run for election, adding that a population survey will be done to prepare voters lists. 'Urayqat said that the legislative council's 82 members will be distributed among 16 electoral constituencies. These are Jericho, Nabulus, Janin, Hebron, Tulkarm, Qalqiliyah, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Salfit, and Tubas in the West Bank; Gaza, Dayr al-Balah, Khan Yunus, Jabalyah, and Rafah in the Gaza Strip; and one constituency in Jerusalem.

'Urayqat said that the elections will be free. People will elect members of the council and the president of the Palestinian Authority. The council members will elect their speaker. The elections will be held under Arab and international supervision.

Commenting on an election law, 'Urayqat said that the draft law is being studied by experts and will be presented to the Council of Ministers.

As to who is eligible to vote in or contest elections, 'Urayqat said any Palestinian who reaches the age of 18 can vote. A member of the council must not be less than 30 years old. The speaker's age must not be less than 38 years.

'Urayqat said that the election law will be distributed on 7 October.

Fatah Committee: Settlements Obstacle to Taba Accord

JN2709202895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement following its extraordinary meeting in Ramallah today, the Fatah Higher Organizational Committee termed the Israeli settlements in the West Bank an insurmountable obstacle to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the second phase of the Declaration of Principles. The committee warned the Israeli Government against any procrastination or delay in the implementation of the Taba agreement and any attempt to circumvent its implementation on the ground.

The Fatah Higher Organizational Committee urged the masses of the Palestinian people to deal seriously with the forthcoming Palestinian elections, which will pave the way for the building of a democratic structure for the independent Palestinian state. The committee welcomed the imminent release of female prisoners and a number of detainees from the occupation prisons. It urged the masses of the Palestinian people to celebrate the release of those who will attain their freedom among their families and people.

Opposition Declares Day of Mourning Over Taba Accord

JN2709184595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers: The Alliance of Palestinian Forces in Syria calls on the masses of our Palestinian Arab people in camps and other centers to declare Thursday, 28 September 1995 — the day the treasonous agreement is signed in Washington — a day of mourning. A general strike will be observed in all Palestinian camps and other population centers. Black banners, Palestinian flags, and posters condemning this treasonous agreement and stressing that the struggle will continue until liberation, repatriation, and victory will be raised on that day.

PFLP-GC Chief Criticizes Accord With Israel

NC2709190595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Sep 95

[Interview with PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Do you believe that jihad, the struggle, or the intifadah will be limited after the expansion of the self-rule or the expansion of 'Arafat's authority throughout the West Bank?

[Jibril] Undoubtedly, our people will now face two armies and organizations of repression. One of them is the Zionist repression. Now they are preparing 20,000 police and security men in the West Bank for 'Arafat. These destructive efforts will merge together to confront the mujahidin and strugglers.

But we believe our people will find various means to pursue their struggle and jihad. God willing, all these impediments will not obstruct the jihad process.

[Al-'Idan] In the PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command] and other Palestinian factions opposed to the Oslo accord, do you have coordination and ways and means to face and thwart this treacherous agreement?

[Jibril] We in the Palestinian opposition forces' alliance will hold a major and important meeting tonight. We will discuss all the developments and examine our plans and work to confront this conspiracy, which is backed by the United States and the forces of global arrogance and their lackeys in the Middle East.

[Al-'Idan] Do you believe the announcement by 'Arafat and his group—that the [PLO] Executive Committee has approved this agreement in Tunis—is true? [PLO Political Department Chief] Qaddumi has declared a contradictory stance, has he not?

[Jibril] First, from the legal point of view, 'Arafat has no quorum to convene the Executive Committee. Over half the Executive Committee members were absent and 'Arafat attended with those who were on his side and made his decision to endorse this agreement. He has forged history and now forges legitimacy and everything. Regrettably, all this forgery and behavior takes place within sight of the world, which claims democracy and self-determination.

Executive Committee Member: Tunisia Meeting 'Illegal'

JN2709143495 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 27 Sep (SANA) — PLO Executive Committee Member Taysir Khalid said that the meeting held by a number of the PLO Executive Committee's members in Tunisia is illegal, illegitimate, and lacks in quorum. He pointed out that the meeting was boycotted by Faruq Qaddumi and representatives of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in addition to a number of resigned members, including: Shafiq al-Hut, 'Abdallah Hourani, and Mahmud Darwish.

In a statement published today, Taysir Khalid said: The outcome of the Tunisia meeting is weird. None of those who took part in the meeting — except those who participated in the Taba negotiations — was briefed on a single letter in the agreement. Nevertheless, the position was falsified and it was announced that the members who attended the meeting agreed to the accord on which they were not briefed in the first place.

Khalid denounced the Taba agreement, saying it consecrates and reorganizes the Israeli occupation, which will maintain its control on more than 70 percent of the West Bank lands and on up to 80 percent of its waters. He added: This flagrantly contradicts resolutions of the Palestine National Council and international legitimacy.

Khalid said that the Taba agreement renders Israeli security considerations the sole terms of reference of the negotiations and their applications. He added that the agreement turns the West Bank into isolated areas subject to Israeli control, noting that it threatens the unity of the Palestinian people.

He called on national, democratic, and Islamic forces to unify their ranks, declare general mourning and strike on 28 September, and to step up their struggle against this agreement and other humiliating and disgraceful agreements.

PLO's Qaddumi on Taba, Syria, Libya

MM2709114895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Sep 95 p 4

[Report by Jihad Faruq al-Husayni: "Qaddumi: Libya Did Not Deport Palestinians; Syria Insisting on Sound Start To Political Settlement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf) has stressed that the Palestinians "have not been deported" from Libya but, rather, "their service has been terminated." Qaddumi, who was speaking to AL-HAYAH in Cairo, said that Israel continues to work to contain the West Bank and not to withdraw from it. He said that Syria "is insisting on a sound start" to a political settlement.

Qaddumi said that the Oslo agreement "is a deviation from the sound course and a violation of the foundations on which the political settlement was launched, namely the land-for-peace principle and the withdrawal from all Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem. Israel imposed what it wanted and did not comply with the Oslo agreement or the foundations on which the process was launched." He added that "the Syrian track is still at a standstill, because Syria is insisting on a sound start and on the compliance with the foundations on which the political settlement was launched, namely the land-for-peace principle and Israel's withdrawal from all the Syrian territories. This is why Israel has not been able to achieve anything on this track."

Asked whether he believed Syria would hesitate to accept an agreement suitable to itself without coordinating with other Arab parties, given its emphasis on that coordination, he said: "Since we see Arab coordination thwarted, Syria is entitled to do what achieves its interests and Arab interests in general. From the outset we have worked for Arab coordination, but the Oslo agreement was a blow to that coordination. Then Jordan signed an agreement with Israel, in addition to normalizing relations. So no one else is left except Syria and Lebanon. Syria is entitled to seek a political settlement based on the foundations on which the peace process was launched and on the basis of which the Madrid peace conference was held."

Qaddumi expressed his belief that "the future does not predict stability for this region, because it is boiling and could explode at any moment. Because Israel continues to insist on containing the West Bank and on not withdrawing from the Palestinian and Arab territories. And it is procrastinating and seeking a price for its occupation. It believes that the Palestinian track is one likely to pay such a price." He described Palestinian-Syrian relations as "relations of brotherhood and struggle. And the Syrian position serves the Palestinian cause." He pointed out that "relations with the Gulf states are changing for the better in a developed manner. And there is a special relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to which we are bound by cordial relations. It provides aid and support for the National Authority, and its position is distinct."

Asked about the crisis of the Palestinians' deportation from Libya, he said: "The Palestinians were not deported in the true sense of the word. Their service was terminated. They could not find a way to move out of Libya. We objected to the Libyan measure because it portrayed the matter as though the Palestinians were both dismissed from their jobs and deported at the same time. We are trying to solve the problem with the Libyan brothers. They know it is not easy for an Arab state to accept that huge number. This is why we have made contacts with the Arab states concerned, so that the situation will not be portrayed in the way it has been, namely to suggest that one state expelled them and another refused to receive them, as though the Palestinians were not wanted in the Arab states, when the problem is to do with Israel. Israel is the one occupying the land, refusing to repatriate the refugees, and only accepting the return of PLO cadres in order to contain them and put pressure on the PLO through them. The Libyan brothers' mistake is that they have moved a large number of Palestinians out of Libya at once. And most regrettably, there are restrictions imposed by some Arab states on Palestinians' movements. Palestinians are often prevented from entering Arab states without a visa or prior permission."

PLO Official Condemns Expulsion of Palestinians

MS2709093095 London INDEPENDENT in English 27 Sep 95 p 16

[Report by Robert Fisk: "Beirut Slams The Door on Its 'Human Garbage'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut — The Lebanese Minister of Tourism called them "human garbage", the wave of Palestinan refugees who were supposedly set to flood back to Lebanon from Libya. Abu-Mahir Yamani found out what this meant when he tried to return to Lebanon after 10 days' holiday in Vienna. He was refused entry to Beirut, although he had Lebanese residence papers.

Three Palestinian women from Lebanon attending the Beijing women's conference flew home to Beirut only to be put aboard a flight to Larnaca.

So was a Palestinian woman returning from Switzerland where she had received medical treatment for war wounds. A Palestinian businessman flew into Beirut and was flown to Larnaca, then to Amman, from there back to Beirut and on to Dubai. None of them, it seems had ever been to Libya.

Their sin was to have been outside Lebanon when Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi decided to expel 25,000 Palestinians from Libya, only about 7,000 of whom held Lebanese residence papers. The Lebanese allowed 350 into the country by boat but then blocked the sea route and banned all Palestinians with Lebanese residence who were outside Lebanon — around 100,000, according to Palestinian sources — from returning without special visas.

In the course of only two days the Beirut authorities reduced the Palestinian refugee population here by almost a third courtesy of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

In a country where contempt for the 350,000 Palestinians half of whom live in 12 refugee camps across Lebanon — unites Muslims and Christians, the Lebanese response to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's expulsion of foreign workers has brought both despair and anger. Thousands of Palestinians studying or working abroad, most of whom would never dream of visiting Libya, have found themselves stranded in foreign lands. The Lebanese documents they relied upon to bring them back to Lebanon are no longer valid without the special permission of the Lebanese embassies.

There is, of course, another side to the story. For years, Yasir 'Arafat's PLO, whose latest agreement with Israel leaves the refugees registered here largely abandoned to their fate, ran a state within a state in the refugee camps of Lebanon participating in the country's civil war in which 150,000 men and women died, in the Christian village of Damour, south of Beirut, Palestinian gunmen massacred most of the remaining Catholic Maronites in one of the war's first acts of "ethnic cleansing". Christians massacred Palestinians in far greater numbers at Tall al-Za'tar in 1976 and at Sabra and Shatila as the Israelis surrounded the camps, in 1982. The hatreds engendered by that war have never been appeased.

Few were surprised, therefore when the Minister of Tourism Nicholas Fattush, called the refugees "human garbage". At least one member of parliament, Naja Wahim, condemned Mr Fattush's remark and the government subsequently revoked the visa requirements for all Palestinian residents who had left Beirut since June.

But a new government communique, number 478, issued by the Minister of the Interior, Michel Murr, at the weekend states that all other 1948 refugees, which means almost all the Palestinians in Lebanon must in future have exit visas before leaving the country and reentry visas before returning.

Palestinian sources say that it may take months for the thousands of refugee residents outside Lebanon to obtain permission to return.

"Lebanon wants to get rid of the maximum number of Palestinians it can," a former PLO official said in Beirut. "But instead of the 7,000 Palestinians from Lebanon who were in Libya, it's all 100,000 Palestinians outside the country who are stranded. It's even shown 'Arafat up in a good light. Now he can say: 'Look what I'm doing for you, and look how al-Qadhdhafi and the other Arabs treat you.'"

Damascus has allowed Palestinian residents to go back to Syria and have accepted those with homes in Lebanon, for the present. Most of the 200 Palestinians left on the Libyan-Egyptian border have been allowed to continue to Amman and Gaza. But Lebanon's new rules seem set to stay.

The Lebanese authorities have long taken the view that Lebanon paid a disproportionate price for the 1948 exodus of refugees and cannot give them citizenship without changing the demographic balance: most Palestinians here are Sunni Muslims and citizenship might make the Sunni community the most powerful in Lebanon.

A few Palestinians have obtained Lebanese citizenship since 1948 — 30,000, according to a 1987 UN estimate. Others have set up wealthy businesses in Beirut or married Lebanese. The wives of both President Al-Hirawi and the Prime Minister, Rafiq al-Hariri, are Palestinian. Almost all are survivors, or children of survivors, of the 1948 war, and thus come from the part of Palestine that became Israel.

Many Christian Lebanese who allied themselves to Israel during the war demanded that all Palestinians should be expelled from the country, without once mentioning that if the Palestinians are to go "home", they will have to return to the one country which assuredly will not have them: Israel itself.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat Arrives in Washington for Signing Ceremony

JN2809092195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Washington at midnight yesterday. He is expected to sign the Taba agreement on the second phase of the Declaration of Principles with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today. Our correspondent in Washington sent us the following report on the signing ceremony:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] With God's protection, the Palestinian president's plane landed at Andrews Air Force Base at 2220, that is, 0420 Jerusalem time. The Palestinian president was received by the ambassadors of Arab states, including Jordan, Tunisia, and Qatar. Representatives of the Arab League and the embassies of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Sudan, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Mauritania, as well as heads of Arab and Palestinian societies in the Washington area were at the airport to welcome him.

President Yasir 'Arafat, his wife Suha 'Arafat, and a delegation of Palestinian ministers and other officials were greeted upon arrival by the Arab ambassadors and diplomats residing in Washington. President 'Arafat and his wife Suha shook hands with all members of Palestinian and Arab community representatives. Following the reception ceremony, President 'Arafat and his wife were taken to the guest house in Washington in an armored vehicle placed at their disposal by the U.S. Government.

Following President 'Arafat's arrival in Washington, he began a series of meetings and consultations with the Palestinian ministers and advisers in preparation for this historic day in the Palestinian people's life. Voice of Palestine has learned form White House sources that the Palestinian president will meet separately with U.S. President Bill Clinton at 0830 today for half an hour. This will be followed by a separate meeting between Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. After these meetings, Jordan's King Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez will arrive at the White House. The Qatari foreign minister arrived in Washington last night to attend the signing of the Palestinian- Israeli agreement. [end recording]

Israeli, PA Officials See Problem With Jericho

TA2809055795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Washington today, Prime Minister Rabin will inform Yasir 'Arafat of his decision to expand the area of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Jericho by some additional hundreds of square meters, as far as Jabal al-Qarantal in the west. Eastward, Israel will agree to add to Jericho a more limited area which mainly includes an estate and a house which belong to Jibril al-Rujub's family. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that reference is to an area which is much smaller than that demanded by the Palestinians, and Jerusalem political elements fear that as a result 'Arafat may pile up obstacles before signing the agreement in Washington.

The Palestinians say there are three unresolved problems in the interim agreement, which concern a detailed timetable for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] exit from the West Bank towns, the size of the Jericho autonomous area, and the issue of security prisoners which Israel refuses to release. 'Abd-al-Hafiz Ashhab, a PA member, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that if Israel gives the Palestinians only a few additional hundreds of meters in the Jericho area, this will complicate the signing in Washington.

Commentary Criticizes Taba Accord, Sets Criteria

MM2709102295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Sep 95 p 9

[Article by Bilal al-Hasan: "The Analysis Has Ended; This Is the Autonomous Rule"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taba accord puts an end to the approximately two-year stage of analysis of the Oslo accord and its contents, reveals matters as they truly are in reality, and lays the foundation for the stage of final settlement, which raises questions which should never be out of our minds.

Now that the Palestinian-Israeli accord has been signed at Taba, all analysis of the Oslo accord, its type and its extent, will come to an end. Here now is the Oslo accord laid out clearly before our very eyes as a naked, cold fact for all to see and scrutinize.

No longer can anyone say that the Oslo accord will lead to this or to that. No longer can anybody reply wrongly to remind us of the need to read this article or that and understand its hidden meanings and dimensions. For the stage of give and take has ended, and so has the stage of explanation and justification. Now the interpretation and implementation are nearing implementation before everyone's eyes.

This is the Oslo accord...This is how it is with Jerusalem., this is how it is wwith Hebron, this is how it is with the settlements, this is how it is with the villages, this is how it is with the roads linking the towns and villages. This is the Oslo accord...and this is the autonomous rule.

This is how it is with security control.. This is how it is with regard to its three regions — A, B, and C. This is how it is in with the holy places and the responsibilty for them. This is how it is in all matters pertaining to the fate of the detainees.

This is the Oslo accord...This is the autonomous rule. This is how it is with the water. This is how it is with the electric power. This is how it is with the dual judiciary. This is how it is with the Israeli roadblocks. The analysis has ended...and this is the reality.

Yet despite all that, some expounders, theoreticians, and propagandists will emerge and will say many things and will sell thrilling dreams. But so that a man should not lose his head and so that he can make sure that he can still think with a sound mind, precise and clear criteria must be devised which would make it possible to distinguish between right and wrong and differentiate between charlatanism and truth.

From the nature of the Palestinian question and its repercussions, the following objective criteria present themselves and impose themselves as an arbiter of right and wrong:

Will this accord lead to the return of the Palestinian land?

Will it lead to the withdrawal of Israeli forces?

Will it lead to the elimination of Israeli settlements?

Will it lead to the return of Jerusalem?

Will it lay the foundation for the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state?

Will it resolve the problem of the Palestinian refugees (of 1948) and the problem of the evacuees (of 1967)?

Will the autonomous rule be tied to the Israeli economy or the Arab economy?

In these questions and the nature of the replies to them lies the verdict for or against this accord. These questions will remain as constant criteria for judging the developments and agreements, whatever artful language the theoreticians, expounders, and propagandists use.

The essence of these questions is that they draw the picture of the final settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. This final settlement is what we must focus our eyes on from now on, so that the fait accompli will not turn into lasting and final facts, as Israel wants.

Essentially, the negotiations battle which has taken place has merely been a persistent attempt by Israel to turn the fait accompli that will come into existence into a permanent reality when the time comes for negotiations on the final settlement. The above-mentioned questions constitute the criteria for the battle which has to be fought to make the final settlement an identical picture of the Palestinians' natural rights.

Algeria

Uprising Within GIA Reportedly Kills 20

LD2709200095 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty people were reportedly killed in an uprising within the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] in the region of Sidi Bel Abbes, according to a communique released by one of the leaders of the organization, the GIA.

FFS Leader's Son Killed in Constantine Attack

LD2709154795 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, one of the sons of a leader of the FFS, the Socialist Forces Front, was killed in an attack in Constantine last weekend. This was announced today. An explosion in the family jewellery shop caused the death of (Amar Ben Amer).

Memo Clarifies Procedures for 'Terrorism' Victims

LD2709165595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister's office has issued a memorandum to governors to clarify the procedures of dealing with the files of the victims of terrorist acts, in order to compensate them. This is in view of the difficulties noticed in some provinces in dealing with the files of the victims of terrorist acts, and difficulties resulting from cases not stipulated in the regulations currently in force or contradictory interpretations of those who deal with them, including local and central authorities and financial services.

According to the memorandum, the acts which are likely to cause difficulties to the officials, after having been identified, are the cases of victims hurt inadvertently during the security services' operations, whether they were killed, injured, or kidnapped. The same applies to missing persons, minors, and elderly people not covered by a pension fund, and cases of absent people who are entitled by law. The same applies to damages caused to cars which cannot be written off and the victims of sexual assaults.

The prime minister's office pointed out in the memorandum that urgent measures have been taken regarding the victims who were civil servants in the economic sectors, even in the private sector, and those who were unemployed, and to compensate traders. Units have been set up to help the families of the victims.

Independent Provincial Commissions Installed

LD2709205295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement issued today, the National Independent Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections informs the public and candidates in the presidential elections that the independent provincial commissions for monitoring the presidential elections have been installed throughout the national territory.

In order to guarantee greater credibility and monitoring in the field, the commission asks all candidates and members of the public to contact the provincial commissions directly to investigate all irregularities on the spot.

Opposition Leader Rejects Nov Elections

MM2709112395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 95 p 6

[Report on interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Jaballah, leader of the "Islamic Revival Movement," by Camille al-Tawil in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian Islamic Revival [al-Nahdah] Movement leader Shaykh Abdallah Jaballah [name as transliterated] has criticized the Arab League decision to send observers to monitor the Algerian elections scheduled for 16 November. In a telephone interview with AL-HAYAH, he said that the observers will be monitoring the elections from "five-star hotels."

Asked if the nomination of Contemporary Muslim Algeria Party [Al-Jaza'ir Al-Muslimah Al-Mu'asirah] leader Ahmed Ben Mohamed signifies a break-up of the "National Covenant" group, Shaykh Jaballah replied: "There are some people who want to depict this nomination as a sign of break-up of the National Covenant Group. But this picture is very far from the truth. The Group continues to be coherent and is determined to maintain its positions, which were unanimously adopted. The decision to boycott the elections was taken unanimously after discussion by all the participants in the Covenant, including the Contemporary Muslim Algeria Party."

Asked if Ben Mohamed was still a member of the National Covenant Group, Jaballah confined himself to saying that the "Covenant" parties consider Ben Mohamed's attitude "a departure from the common framework agreed to with regard to the elections." He pointed out that Ben Mohamed has failed to attend the last three meetings of the National Covenant Group without giving any explanation, which means that his membership of Contemporary Muslim Algeria has been "frozen."

Asked about President Zeroual's nomination for the presidential election, Shaykh Jaballah said: "We expected that. We have repeatedly affirmed that the regime wanted to hold elections for its own reasons but needed the participation of the opposition in those elections to give itself a touch of credibility. For this reason, Zeroual's nomination came as no surprise to us." He added: "We do not believe that the elections will enjoy any credibility with the general public, because they are being boycotted by the opposition and there is no value in elections held without opposition participation." He said that it was universally agreed that, for any elections to be considered free and credible, agreement on them must be reached between government and opposition. "This," he said, "has not happened in the case of Algeria."

He said that "the Algerian opposition has opposed the current elections because these elections lacked all security, political, information, and administrative conditions. Anyone who participates in the elections today will only be participating to endorse the candidate of the regime, which wants to hold elections in order to renew itself.

"We in the opposition have demanded a return to the electoral process, provided that it is agreed to by the regime and the opposition and involves the minimum number of conditions. This would provide reassurance of the regime's good intentions and show it working seriously to ensure the honesty and freedom of an election that would set Algeria on the right course so that stability and security may return to the country. But we see the elections today as merely one element in a continuing crisis."

Shaykh Jaballah mentioned several "signs" causing mistrust of the regime's intentions, such as: the regime's rejection of all types of dealing with the opposition; its refusal to permit the opposition to organize any functions; its monopoly of the public information media and its employment of those public media to serve the regime and attack the opposition; and its provocation of the opposition and its supporters by barring them from acquiring any employment and investigating anyone refusing to participate in organized processions in support of President Zeroual's nomination.

In this regard he also mentioned the revision of the electoral law with regard to the collection of signatures for the candidates, considering that this will "open the door wide to forgery." Shaykh Jaballah said that he believed that the Constitutional Council "will rule that many of the signatures are invalid, if it really appreciates the responsibilities laid on its shoulders."

Speaking about the involvement of Arab and international organizations in sending observers to monitor the elections, he said that the Algerian official invitation to send observers constitutes "involvement" by these observers in supporting the authority. He described their agreement to participate in the monitoring operation as "collusion" with the regime.

He responded to the announcement by Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid that he was sending between 30 and 40 observers by saying: "Can 40 observers monitor 31,000 polling stations throughout Algeria? That would mean that each observer had to monitor approximately 1,000 stations. I believe that they will do their monitoring from five-star hotels and from within armored vehicles."

He expressed his belief that the contacts between the regime and detained leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front "have come to a halt, though it is not impossible for them to be resumed."

He severely attacked the "blackout" which he said the information media and the government hade been imposing on the activities of the opposition, affirming: "We are legitimate parties and we have the right to express our views through all the information media."

Candidate Complains of 'Pressures' on Supporters

LD2709210295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Djamel Eddine Habibi, leader of the Popular Unity Party, who announced his intention of running in the presidential elections, held a news conference in Oran today in which he talked about many issues relating to the forthcoming elections.

He added that his supporters have been subjected to pressures from the administration when gathering signatures [for nomination papers] in some provinces. He said that he has taken up his protests with the National Independent Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections and the Interior Ministry. [passage omitted]

Bencherif Hopes To Get 'Massive' Saudi Aid

LD2709173195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1225 GMT on 27 September broadcasts a 26-minute interview with independent presidential candidate Ahmed Bencherif, a former agriculture minister and commander of the Gendarmerie. Bencherif talks about his past achievements, his contribution to the war of liberation, the removal of communists from the Ministry of Agriculture after he took over as minister and bringing in young people who had been trained in Europe, the United States, and Canada. He says his main reason for running in the elections was the impact of poverty and violence on the people.

Regarding the process of collecting nomination signatures, Bencherif says he has been inundated with calls offering signatures. One caller even offered 5,000 signatures for payment, he notes. However, he adds: "There have been many difficulties. We left files containing signatures in Tamanrasset which were stolen next day." In reply to a question on whether these difficulties have been documented, he says: "Yes, they have all been documented."

Regarding transparency in the run-up to the elections, Bencherif says: "We hear about transparency everyday, but there has been absolutely no transparency." Bencherif says the main aims of his policy are to restore security, solidarity, and fraternity in Algeria. He adds: "When Ahmed Bencherif is appointed as president of the republic, first of all we will bring about reconciliation and stop the bloodshed, release all political prisoners. We will study other cases later ... After that we will start a dialogue. During the war we held dialogues with the enemy; why should I not hold a dialogue with my cousins?"

Bencherif blames former President Chadli Bendjedid for the current crisis. "The crisis was, regrettably, brought upon us by Chadli," he says. "When I assume the presidency, the situation will improve gradually. We are in constant contact with Saudi Arabia. We can achieve a great deal with the massive amount of Saudi money, which will come into this country, God willing," Bencherif adds. He goes on to say that he seeks to reduce the price of essential goods and settle Algeria's debts. Regarding foreign investment, Bencherif says: "I promise you that when Bencherif becomes president, money will pour into the country. If not, we will provide the required conditions ... We will remove all the obstacles."

Bencherif says he will abolish prisons, provide land and facilities for farmers, and create employment opportunities for young people. He also pledges complete freedom of expression and media.

In conclusion the presidential candidate makes the following address to the Algerian people:

"Our profound thanks to the Algerian people. When I put myself forward, I felt that the Algerian people in the oases, Annaba, Maghnia, and Algiers — all the people moved. I thank them for the trust they have put in me. God willing, their hope will not be in vain. I would also like to say that the burden on this country will end. During my tour, I noticed that the Algerian people as a whole... [pauses] ... When I walked in towns I did not see an Algerian laughing or smiling. Tomorrow, when Ahmed Bencherif becomes president, he will return the smile to the Algerian people's faces. The smile will return to the Algerian people's faces, and they will start laughing, God willing."

Egypt

Musa Comments on Palestinian-Israeli Agreement

NC2809063695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0020 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 28 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has described the recent progress achieved on the Palestinian-Israeli track as an added step. He remarked, however, that it is not the final solution and that it does not represent a comprehensive agreement. It is a further step after the Gaza-Jericho agreement, he said.

Speaking to reporters in Washington tonight [as received], the foreign minister remarked that what counts in all this is the implementation. We will certainly follow up on the safe implementation of the agreement, by which legislative, executive, and judicial authorities will be established and the powers involving the various aspects of life will be transferred to the Palestinians, Musa said.

Minister Musa pointed out that this agreement is not complete, because many things are left to the final negotiations. Israel still has a wide security jurisdiction and common patrols in a number of regions, he said, adding that the agreement ultimately leads to the Israeli withdrawal from the surrounding cities and villages, which represents withdrawal from the West Bank. Musa noted that the agreement provides for holding elections involving Jerusalem within months, which represents a significant progress. Jerusalem will thus have candidates, voters, and parliament members, he remarked.

Asked whether this agreement will lead to progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the foreign minister said that success in implementing this agreement will certainly lead to that.

Mubarak Commemorates 'Abd-al-Nasir's Anniversary

NC2809101695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak praised the leading role late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir played, with sincerity and selflessness, at the national and pan-Arab levels.

In a message the president addressed to a seminar organized today by the Egyptian Afro Asian People's Solidarity Organization [AAPSO] to mark the 25th anniversary of 'Abd-al-Nasir's departure, Mubarak said that 'Abd-al-Nasir carried the out struggle for Arab dignity and freedom at one of the most sensitive periods in history.

Read by AAPSO Chairman Ahmad Hamrush, President Mubarak's message greeted 'Abd-al-Nasir's anniversary and the principles and values he lived and died for. The text of the message follows:

I seize this occasion to greet the organizers of and participants in this seminar and express my appreciation for their keenness to commemorate the memory of 'Abd-al-Nasir, who led the national and pan-Arab march in all sincerity and selflessness and carried out the struggle to protect Arab dignity and freedom of will in all pride and courage at one of the most sensitive periods in the history of the Arab nation and the world.

'Abd-al-Nasir laid a solid foundation for a rudimentary socio-political change that left its profound positive impact on the entire Arab nation and the Third World in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

A warm greeting to the soul of the late president on his anniversary and to the noble principles and values he lived and died for. A greeting also to the great people, who upheld these noble values in their constant struggle to make glory and progress.

Killing of 'Christians' in Upper Egypt Cited

NC2809095995 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 25 Sep 95 pp 6-8

[Report by 'Isam 'Abd-al-Jawad]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The serial killing of Copts has returned to Upper Egypt, but this time it is more organized and with more defined and clearer targets. This time there is a news blackout. The security services turn a blind eye to it. Everybody is silent about it. We touch on a taboo in defense of the Egyptian citizen's right to security, regardless of his religious beliefs.

Eleven Christian citizens have been killed and three wounded so far this month. Eight have been killed in al-Minya Governorate, two in Qina Governorate, and one in Asyut Governorate. All were rich Christians who owned either jewelry shops or agricultural lands. [passage omitted]

We met with bishops and priests to learn their view, but they avoided giving a clear answer and refused to speak about what is happening, especially in Mallawi, where the bishops are unanimous that the targets this time are rich Christians. The motive is to extort money from them and spread fear among the citizens, Christians and Muslims alike. The bishops affirmed that these incidents will not cause a sectarian strife because all Muslims stand behind the Christians. The proof is the crowd of Muslims who came to offer condolences following the killing of a Christian citizen. The bishops said we only ask the security forces to stand on our side and protect us until we transcend this ordeal.

In al-Minya, a high-level security source told ROSE AL-YUSUF that the terrorists do not target only Christians, but all citizens, and that they do not differentiate between Muslims and Christians. He explained that the terrorists are breathing their last breath after 70 percent of their element and all their leaders have been eliminated in al-Minya. This has prompted the terrorists to carry out ugly operations to instill fear in the citizens. The source said: We have identified the terrorist group which opened fire at Christians and it will fall into the hands of the security services in a few hours. The group is comprised of four persons—Ahmad 'Ali Sayyid, holder of a diploma in industry from al-Rawdah village in Mallawi; Samir Faruq 'Abd-al-Muttalib from Abu Qurqas town; Samir Farraj 'Abd-al-Majid from Itqa village in Mallawi; and Muhammad Hasan 'Abd-al-'Alim from Tandah village in Mallawi. The group is headed by Ahmad 'Ali al-Sayyid, who leads the group in the killing operations and the mutilation of bodies. [passage omitted]

As for Qina Governorate, ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that the burglary of the "al-Malikah wa al-Amirah" jewelry shop in Farshut was carried out by a terrorist group led by 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Farshuti, who formed a group in his name called the al-Farshuti Group. The four-man group has carried out six terrorist operations against the security services and Christian citizens, in which two Christians have been killed. It has sent letters to rich Christians in Qina Governorate threatening them with imminent death.

Libya

Reform Movement on Regime 'Repression' of Opposition

MM2709143395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Sep 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Change and Reform Movement Urges Libyan Army Not To Get Involved in Repression Against Citizens"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The opposition Libyan Movement for Change and Reform said in a statement yesterday that "reports from Libya indicate that violent confrontations are continuing between the regime's security organs and armed groups belonging to the Libyan forces opposed to the tyrannical and terrorist regime, and have resulted in scores of casualties on both sides."

The statement added: "We condemn the regime's policy of bloody repression against the sons of our people who reject its despotism and oppression. We also reaffirm that the repression policy that the regime has applied since it seized power in the country was not successful in the past and will never succeed in extinguishing the spirit of jihad among the Libyan people, who reject dictatorship and aspire to dignity, honor, and liberty. The incidents — which erupted in recent months and have intensified over the past few days in several parts of the country, such as those in Benghazi last Thursday night and al-Zawiyah where elements of the regime demolished a building with a tank cannon — are nothing but a link in the march of the nation's struggle, which will continue until it achieves the hopes of the people and its legitimate aspirations."

The statement urged "all the national forces inside and outside the country to stand united to confront the savage attack by the regime aimed at eliminating this or that force, and to consider any confrontation with any one side a confrontation targeting everyone, and thus a confrontation with all the national forces which agree on the noble goal of restoring legitimacy to the Libyan people."

It also urged "the sons of our people among members of the Armed Forces, security forces, and other elements, whom the regime might use in these repressive operations, not to get involved in the circle of violence against their brother citizens, to side completely with the force of good which tries to free the nation from the grip of this repressive regime, and to put the homeland's interest above every consideration."

In conclusion, the statement said: "If legitimacy is not restored to the Libyan people and a democratic system established under which individuals and groups would enjoy freedom of thought and political action, the confrontations will continue between the regime and all the national forces, since the only way left for the people to wrest their right to sovereignty over their own affairs is by force."

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers To Pay Andreotti's Defense

LD2709150695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1434 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 27 Sep — JANA has learned that the brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has expressed the great Jamahiriyah's readiness to cover the fees of the team of lawyers defending Guilio Andreotti in the case made against him, if that is acceptable to Andreotti.

UN Delegate Denounces 'Distortion' on Lockerbie

LD2709183495 Tripoli JANA in English 1806 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, al Harth (Sep) 27, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Great Jamahariyah's resident delegate to the United Nations denounced the campaigns of distortion and deception of international public opinion launched by America in a constant way in an attempt to make a link betwteen two Libyan nationals and the so-called Lockerbie case. In his speech to the United Nations General Assembly, the Great Jamahariyah's resident said that America is trying to impose itself on the world as a policeman to accuse and convict anyone even without trial.

The delegate indicated that America and England, through their anti-Great Jamahariyah policies and their tendencies to convict the two suspects in the so-called Lockerbie have therefore become two antagonists who could never be trusted.

He confirmed that the Great Jamahariyah is in the forefront of the states who are the victims of terrorism indicating that America [word indistinct] various forms of terrorism against the people of the Great Jamahariyah, from economic blockades to military provocations in its territorial waters and even to direct aggression against its tranquil cities in the dark of the night, let alone its continued involvement in terrorist conspiracies and aggressive designs targetting the freedom and prosperity of the Libyan-Arab people.

The delegate reaffirmed Libya's commitment to the Arab collective position which had been expressed by the decisions of the Arab League council in its consecutive sessions in respect of settling the so-called Lockerbie case, indicating that dialogue is the only means to establish relations that satisfy the people's aspirations.

Mauritania

Communique Issued on Algerian Prime Minister's Visit

LD2709112895 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit of [Algerian Prime Minister] Mokdad Sifi to our country was crowned by the release of a Mauritanian-Algerian Joint Communique in which the two sides affirmed their determination to continue the work of strengthening the bonds of fraternity and cooperation. They also expressed their positions vis-a-vis the whole range of timely issues such as the situation in Western Sahara, the Middle East, the Balkans, and the Arabian Gulf and also the phenomena of terrorism and violence. The following is the text of the communique read by Cheiakh Ould Ali, secretary of state in charge of Arab Maghreb affairs.

In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful. Prayers and peace be upon the noble messenger of God. The Mauritanian- Algerian Joint Communique:

Stemming from the exceptional fraternal relations and the close bonds between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the popular and democratic Republic of Algeria and in an embodiment of the desires of the two fraternal countries to realize their aspirations in cooperation, mutual support and integration and, working in accordance with the directives of His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual of the Republic of Algeria, to underpin and develop the relations existing between the two fraternal countries. In response to the generous invitation from Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker, prime minister of Mauritania, Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi paid an official visit to Mauritania from 24 to 26 September, heading an important delegation.

During his stay in Mauritania Mokdad Sifi was received by President Taya and conveyed a verbal message from brother President Zeroual.

In a fraternal and understanding atmosphere Sifi, Boubaker, and their accompanying delegations held in-depth talks and exchanged views on all issues of mutual interest. They registered with satisfaction the identical views of both countries on the issues tackled by the talks.

On bilateral relations, the two sides expressed their satisfaction at the important achievements accomplished in the various fields, stressing their firm determination to consolidate and widen them in the service of both countries' interest and in response to the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples. The two sides also noted the extensive contacts existing between the two countries at various levels as a means of exchanging views and consultation on all questions under discussion. On this occasion a comprehensive assessment was made of the outcome of cooperation and the extent of implementing what had been agreed upon between the two countries during President Taya's visit to Algeria from 24 to 26 July 1995 and also the joint programs in the various fields. A number of decisions were taken with the aim of consolidating bilateral cooperation and particularly the existing joint institutions and the means of making them compatible with the economic requirements of both countries.

In this respect, the two sides touched upon the situation facing some of the joint institutions which prevents them from discharging some of their tasks and achieving the objectives for which they were created. They affirmed the importance of speedy action to tackle the conditions in those institutions in implementing the minutes of implementation signed in Algeria on 26 July 1995. They also discussed the available potential for future cooperation and noted the existence of wide prospects for joint cooperation in the various fields, particularly in trade. In this context, they have agreed to give instructions to the competent authorities in both countries with a view to preparing proposals for specific projects based on the aforementioned implementation minutes and encouraging partnerships between the economic operators in the public and private sectors in both countries.

Out of their conviction about the necessity to organize and encourage any potential energy and initiative freed by the economic transformations in both countries, both sides noted the importance of meetings of economic operators on the occasion of this visit and have decided to invite them to intensify contacts with the aim of strengthening the partnerships and exchanges between the two countries.

They stressed implementation of the resolutions from the 10th Session of the Higher Joint Committee held in Algeria on 18 and 19 April 1994; they also stressed holding the 11th session of the committee in Nuoakchott, holding the preparatory meeting of the follow-up committee during the first week of November in Algiers.

On the Maghreb, scene the two sides gave their blessing to the important strides made by the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] on the road of strengthening its march. They stressed the importance of implementing the signed agreements with the aim of reaching economic integration at the Arab Maghreb level and to work toward removing all obstacles hindering the emergence of economic unity and genuine Maghreb integration.

The Mauritanian prime minister has expressed his appreciation of the important steps in the UMA's march under Algerian leadership and the positive results registered in this respect.

The two sides stressed the necessity to combat all manifestations of terrorism which contravene our true religion and the ethics and traditions of our Arab and Islamic societies. In this context the two sides renewed their commitment to the code of conduct endorsed by the Organization of Islamic Conference concerning the phenomena of violence and terrorism and their condemnation of all of its kinds and forms.

After reviewing the importance of continuing the dialogue between UMA and EU member states, the two sides renewed their previous position concerning the participation of all the members of both groups and on the necessity to turn the Mediterranean Sea into a lake of security, peace, and cooperation with the aim of developing a partnership between the two sides and to realize development, stability, and security for all concerned parties.

In the framework of the preparations under way for the European- Mediterranean Conference due to convene in Barcelona on 27 and 28 November, the two sides hailed the consultations held in Algeria on 3 and 4 September and attended by senior officials from the Arab states on the rim of the Mediterranean Sea. They also stressed that the UMA states and the other Arab states will continue to coordinate their positions on this conference in order to crystallize a unified stand which takes into account the joint interests of these states.

The two sides also evoked the firm principled stands adopted by their two countries on various issues. They said that these stands had been reaffirmed on the occasion of President Taya's July visit. In this respect, regarding the crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and some Western states, the two sides reiterated their solidarity with the fraternal people of Libya in the face of the measures imposed upon them. They mentioned the negative repercussions of this crisis on UMA's march ahead and stressed the need to find a just solution to this issue which would preserve the dignity of the fraternal people of Libya and respect international legitimacy.

To this effect, the two sides called on the Security Council to take into consideration the objective proposals included in the Arab League Council's resolutions on this subject.

The two sides also reviewed the problem of the Western Sahara and emphasized the importance of implementing the UN resolutions issued on the subject with a view to reaching a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to this issue by holding a free and fair referendum to guarantee the security and stability of the region.

As regards the sub-Saharan area the two sides hailed the positive results which crowned the meeting of the foreign ministers of the sub-Saharan states held in Algiers on 23 and 24 August. They also hailed the importance of this meeting for the development of cooperation and the entrenchment of consultations in the service of security and stability in this region.

As regards the Middle East peace process, the two sides stressed the need to reach a peaceful, just, and comprehensive solution in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions to guarantee an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and secure the Palestinian people exercising their legitimate rights, including the right to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The two sides also reviewed the current Arab situation and stressed the need to continue the efforts aimed at clearing the air between brother Arabs with a view to achieving serious and responsible Arab interests which would protect the interests of the Arab nation and strengthen its capability and place in the various international forums.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the positive steps taken by Iraq in the framework of implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions. They stressed the need to end the suffering of the fraternal people of Iraq and preserve Iraq's territorial integrity and unity. They also stressed the need to respect Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The two sides also reviewed the latest developments in Bosnia- Herzegovina where the fraternal Bosnian people are still subjected to barbaric slaughter, genocide, and ethnic cleansing by the Serb aggressors who persist in defying the international community and the UN resolutions.

The two sides reaffirmed their solidarity with and support for the Bosnian people in their right to defend themselves and their territorial integrity. The two sides urged the international community to find a just and immediate solution to this tragedy.

In conclusion, Prime Minister Sifi expressed his thanks and gratitude to his brother Prime Minister Boubaker for the warm welcome and hospitality he and his delegation had been given during their stay in sisterly Mauritania. Sifi invited Boubaker to pay an official visit to Algeria which Boubaker accepted with thanks. The date of this visit will be fixed later.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Relations With Egypt, Demonstrations

MM2709132595 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 26 Sep 95 p 1

[Report on interview with President 'Umar al-Bashir by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan in Khartoum; date not given: "Compliance With Nile Waters Agreement Depends on Egypt's Compliance With the Other Agreements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir has indicated that the agreement signed between Egypt and Sudan on the distribution of Nile waters has not been honored. In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI he pointed out that Egypt did not honor many agreements signed by both countries and said: "We have a number of important agreements with Egypt, and, just as the Egyptian brothers are asking us to respect our agreements with them, we ask the same of them. There are many agreements signed between us and Egypt, not only the one about distribution of the Nile waters, but also the border agreement, the integration agreement, and the joint defense agreement. We can honor all these agreements, but they must reciprocate."

Asked whether he expected an Egyptian military strike, he smiled and answered that he did not expect one, because it is not justified, and added: "Whatever comes from God is fine, and we are just waiting."

The Sudanese president accused the OAU committee entrusted with settling disputes of losing its neutrality when it condemned Sudan at its recent meeting over its alleged part in the Addis Ababa assassination attempt on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak last June. He added: "By condemning us, this committee has taken sides in the conflict. How could it issue this condemnation without the presence of the Sudanese foreign minister?"

He said: "Ethiopia had been saying for over two months that the perpetrators of the failed assassination attempt were all Egyptians and that Sudan had no involvement in it. Then suddenly, because of U.S. and Egyptian pressure, it changed its position and accused Sudan."

He pointed out that all Sudan's problems come from states in the U.S. orbit and said: "It is pressure from Egypt and the United States that creates problems for Sudan. The states that severed relations or have problems with it are the ones that come under U.S. influence. The other states outside this sphere of influence have no complaints about Sudan."

The Sudanese president talked about the recent demonstrations in Sudan and said: "The demonstrators were no more than a few thousand people from only three universities, namely Khartoum, Sudan, and al-Nilayn. In Sudan there are 750,000 university students."

He added that Sudanese public opinion "condemned these people and their acts of sabotage against private and public property. These acts are alien to Sudan."

President al-Bashir rejected any similarities between these demonstrations and the ones that toppled President Numayri, and added: "In the demonstrations against Numayri there was a response from the people as a whole and a general strike. The Armed Forces refused to carry out orders to go out and quell the demonstrations. In the recent demonstrations no such thing happened."

President al-Bashir admitted that the demonstrations had been intended to coincide with the opposition conference in Asmara, and said: "Presumably these groups wanted to show their financial backers abroad that they have a strong presence inside Sudan, and simply to start these limited demonstrations contributes toward achieving that goal."

He added: "The opposition took advantage of some internal difficulties, like the electricity crisis and the increase in bread prices, to light the fuse in the hope that public opinion would respond favorably, but this did not happen."

The Sudanese president seemed at ease during the interview. He is preparing for a 10-day official visit to China. He said: "If conditions in Sudan were as bad as the opposition alleges, do you think I would leave the country for 10 days?"

Meanwhile, the Sudanese capital seemed totally quiet, with no trace of the troubles and no sign of any troops or road blocks, although some official sources have admitted that there were still some troops in the universities, in case of new incidents.

President al-Bashir reiterated his accusations that the communists had organized the demonstrations and said that some of their groups, infiltrated into student circles, had incited them.

Kuwait

Minister Receives U.S.-French-British Letter

LD2709212895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1324 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 27 Sep (KUNA) — The Foreign Ministry under secretary, Suleyman Majid al-Shahin, today received a joint letter from the foreign ministers [as heard] of the United States, France, and Britain, addressed to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister,.

An official source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said the letter, which was delivered by the ambassadors of these countries to Kuwait during their meeting with Al-Shahin, was in connection with bilateral relations.

The source told KUNA that the letter also discussed the role of these countries in their capacity as permanent members of the Security Council vis-a—vis the latest developments and current issues in the international arena.

Al-Shahin also received the commander of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission, General Krishna Thaba, who introduced his deputy, Brigadier General Mawasim Husayn, who was recently assigned to his job.

Al-Shahin also met the Niger charge d'affaires to Kuwait, Isa Amadou, and discussed with him aspects of bilateral relations, issues of mutual interest, and international developments.

Government Grants Loan to Syria

LD2709212695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
2022 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 27 Sep — Syria and Kuwait signed a loan agreement here tonight for the sum of 10 million Kuwaiti dinars to finance the Khabur irrigation plan in Syria. [passage omitted]

The plan is aimed at increasing agricultural production and bolstering electric power in Syria. The total costs are estimated at about 15 billion Syrian lira, which is equivalent to about 105 million Kuwaiti dinars. The Kuwaiti loan represents about 10 percent of the total costs of the project and about 26 percent of the foreign currency component. [passage omitted]

The loan is repayable over 25 years including a five-year grace period at an annual interest rate of 2.5 percent, to which 5 percent will be added to cover the costs of administration and implementation of the loan agreement.

With this agreement, the Kuwaiti Fund for [Arab] Economic Development will have granted Syria 19 loans for a total of about 258 million Kuwaiti dinars, the equivalent of about $852 million. [passage omitted]

Yemen

President Discusses Inter-Arab Ties, Other Issues

MM2609133295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 24 Sep 95 p 16

[Report on interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by 'Uthman al-'Umayr in Paris; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Yemeni friend asked me how I found President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih nine years after my previous meeting with him.

I said: That is an important question and I hope that my answer will do it justice. Nine years separates the meeting in Sanaa and the meeting in Le Crillione in downtown Paris, through where the Yemeni president was passing and where he was convalescing on his way back from the United States, and where I was first received by his active press secretary, 'Abduh Burji.

Between 1986 and 1995 many horses, carriages, and people have passed under the bridge, with residue and accumulations left on the roadside; states have fallen and some people have died and others are living dead, and a generation is continuing the journey.

But when I go back to my papers and jump the time barriers and past events, I find one unchanged picture. On the first occasion, Information Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa' — now a minister — took me in his car out of Sanaa in the direction of the presidential palace and the president. It was a long interview and, as I wrote then, I came out of it "most amazed because a country like Yemen with all its pluralism, its difficult circumstances, and continuous and decisive struggle with the past for the sake of the future is fortunate to have a president with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's qualities, the most important of which being his understanding of Yemen, which is perhaps the first basic prerequisite for government — understanding the nature, circumstances, and pluralistic structure of the people you rule." That was what I wrote about him in Sanaa and from Sanaa. When I went to see him in Paris I found that, after nine years, I would not change a single line of what I had written.

Going back again to my scattered papers I found that "the most prominent feature of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's experiment is that magnanimity Yemen has for all its politicians who had fought and quarreled among themselves day after day. When the situation returned to normal the president allowed them to return and they became citizens serving Yemen without the complexes and residue of the past. That is the utmost tolerance and reason for any nation."

I remembered these lines that I wrote nine years ago. Then I saw Former Prime Minister Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and Former Presidential Council Member Salim Salih — and, very soon perhaps, 'Ali Salim al- Bid — with him, receiving them and talking to them in Paris. He will probably receive them tomorrow in Paris, and also in Sanaa. I decided that I would not change anything I had written. What would I change, bearing in mind what 'Umar Ibn-Abi-Rabi'ah once said about people changing?

That is Yemen. It changes as it likes and adapts to developments as it likes, but it remains and must remain the compassionate Yemen for all. That is what I detected in the words of the president despite the painful experiment, the severe conflict, and the bitter tragedy.

Yes, he talks about his colleagues in the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] and about the party itself bitterly and emphatically. I addressed a question about that to the president, who is still full of vitality and experienced youth. He replied:

"Yes, painfully because it killed 10,000 people in a 67-day war. Yes, because of the 10,000 casualties it caused. Those were Yemenis from the south and the north, from the YSP and elsewhere. The reason was the party's policy, subservience, violent Marxist mentality, and known method."

I said to the president provocatively: "But you knew the party before the war?"

[Salih] That is true. It had killed ulema and shaykhs and, therefore, it was not strange that it caused the secession and the war. I had seen that as a possibility but never thought it would be of that magnitude.

[Al-'Umayr] Yet despite that pain and bitterness you are contacting some if its leaders and their return to Yemen is being considered.

[Salih] From a humanitarian and fraternal aspect, yes, but politically we differ because they killed people. I do not sever ties of personal affection, but political matters are something else. The political position is one thing and personal relationships quite another.

[Al-'Umayr] I understand that, on that basis, their human rights are safeguarded.

[Salih] These rights are acquired and preserved. I mean that their homes, salaries, and properties are preserved and safeguarded, unlike what they did when they were in power and threw people out of their homes and denied them any hope and even killed them. We have absorbed some of them who have returned. Some of them are abroad, including the main criminals, but there are contacts.

[Al-'Umayr] Are there contacts with those you call criminals?

[Salih] No, no I do not think so. Some of them...al-Jifri sent me flowers and a card when I was in the States. That is the humanitarian aspect, but political differences exist. Al-Jifri is still a war criminal and we still hold his assets. He became rich after the unity. He had a windfall of funds and owns land.

(I have learned that there has been contact between the president and Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the former prime minister and one of the secessionist leaders. Their conversation was frank. President 'Ali Salih blamed his former prime minister and held him responsible, for he, as the president said, was the prime minister and should have at least stayed home because he was not deeply involved with the YSP. Salim Salih is still in a good position and his relationships are improving).

[Al-'Umayr] Those wanted for trial say they are willing to come and they will accept your verdict, provided their trial is made public and provided you preside over the court.

[Salih] Let them come and bring with them lawyers of their choice and face the independent justice which is one of the state's three authorities. They must face justice and they can bring their lawyers and we are prepared to ensure their security and safety, and we would accept the judicial verdict. If they are acquitted we would restore all their political and citizenship rights, but if they are convicted and sentenced to death then we would execute them. If they are sentenced to prison or deportation we would implement the verdict of the court.

[Al-'Umayr] So you are committed to giving them a fair trial?

[Salih] Yes, I will commit myself to a fair and impartial trial for them, and they can bring international lawyers and invite any international organization concerned with the matter. The court could be placed under international observation.

[Al-'Umayr] There is one incomprehensible point, Mr. President. You want them to appear before the courts but you are holding contacts with them from time to time.

[Salih] The contacts between me and them are based on the fact that I am the head of state for all citizens, but the government's policy still stands.

(When I felt that the president wanted to change the subject I started a new series of question, but before that I stopped the tape recorder and we engaged in a long discussion on views not for publication, some of them not suitable for this particular time. But the president's frankness, known openness, and ability to explain things easily made me go a long way in responding to his frankness.

(Anyway, I came out with the feeling that the page of the south is ready to be closed and the tragedy, with all its repercussions and complications, is tipped to end, with time remaining the only deciding factor.

(Going back to the internal situation, I asked the Yemeni president about the YSP, the party which, in my view, is as necessary for the country as it is unenviably hated, bearing in mind the fear of dual power. It is clear that, despite all the pain the president holds that party responsible for, he, in the final analysis, pins on it the hope of achieving some kind of necessary political formula. When I asked him about that, he replied as follows.)

[Salih] First of all, we believe in partisan and political pluralism. The law organizes that. I believe that it suits Yemen to basically have four parties, that is, three main parties and a fourth, left-wing party comprising all the forces that are vestiges of communism and the left. This includes a right-wing conservative party and a center party, which is the [General People's] Congress [GPC], so that to the right of the GPC there would be two main parties, with a fourth party embodying all the other political forces. We favor the existence of parties to preserve and absorb all the political forces, including the YSP. That party exists, but its strength before the secession war did not stem from its ideology and political program but from its military power inherited from the former separatist state. The YSP was known as the party of the government of what was known as the southern part. Now it is like any other party. We in the GPC are an ordinary party and have no military force but we do have a program. The army is the army of the state, of the YSP, the GPC, the [Yemeni] Reform Grouping [YRG], and all the other forces. We are supposed to be civilian parties competing on the basis of what we can offer the public, but parties in Yemen no longer have military power because the Constitution does not allow them to have military forces or militias. That is rejected. The YSP exists and it exercises political activity in the opposition.

[Al-'Umayr] But its position is shaky.

[Salih] It is shaky because it failed in the war and because it committed war and secession crimes.

[Al-'Umayr] What about your relations with the YRG? Is there some concern that they might deteriorate, and are there fundamental differences, in your view?

[Salih] These are minor differences that occur in any coalition, like the differences and differences of opinion that occur within the GPC and between its members. Differences occur in all organizations, but everyone abides by the constant elements such as unity, democracy, and the republican system. As regards administrative differences, they are peripheral differences and are resolved through understanding and dialogue. There is a coalition document which governs relations between the GPC and the YRG.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you think that the cause of the differences is the absence of the third party which existed before?

[Salih] Regrettably, there are those who fan and escalate the differences. They are people who participated in the secession. They try to pour oil on the flames. When there are differences of opinion between the GPC and the YRG they try to intensify the differences. They should not be given a chance to achieve their objectives because relations between the GPC and the YRG are strategic relations.

[Al-'Umayr] What is the truth about claims that the YRG has external links with fundamentalist forces? Are you for or against that?

[Salih] The Constitution and the law do not allow any Yemeni party to have foreign affiliations or links or to be subject to any foreign ideological or political influence. If the state discovers any evidence of any political organization having such links, that organization would be banned completely and legal measures would be taken against it.

[Al-'Umayr] So what is the story concerning the "Afghans" you found in Yemen?

[Salih] Those are Yemenis most of whom were students during the Afghan war and they used to go from the Gulf and Yemen to fight and then come back. Legal measures would be taken against any of them who resorts to extremism and breaks the law.

[Al-'Umayr] And do these include the illegal immigrants to Yemen, such as Somalis and Sudanese?

[Salih] No, these are Yemenis. As regards the Somalis, Yemen is full of Somalis who moved to Yemen because of the war.

[Al-'Umayr] And what about Islamic extremists from other Arab and Islamic states? Are some of them in Yemen?

[Salih] We do not permit the presence of such people on Yemeni territory. There was a time during the crisis, conflict, and political struggle between the YSP and the GPC when the situation was loose. Some such elements used to come to Yemen from Egypt, Algeria, and Libya to study. I have one person called Muqbil al- Wadi'i of the Juhayman group. The state, however, took measures against them and did not allow them to remain in Yemen.

[Al-'Umayr] It has been claimed in Egypt that there are Egyptian extremists in Yemen.

[Salih] Perhaps, because we have about 60,000 Egyptians and we do not know who among them is good and who is bad. There is no visa requirement between us and Egypt. Many of them are teachers and contractors. We have told the brothers in Egypt to give us the names of those extremists and sign a security agreement with us and then we would be willing to exchange extradition of criminals. In Egypt, for instance, there are [Yemeni] criminals and war traitors, and they should extradite them to us. We may have some people wanted by Egypt. If they are proved to be traitors and to have carried out activity detrimental to Egypt, then we would exchange criminals.

[Al-'Umayr] Is it true that you have recently arrested some members of the YRG?

[Salih] The elements accused of attacking the education office in the Ibb Governorate have been held by the competent authorities under precautionary detention and they are at present being investigated by the prosecutor's office. We do not allow any extremism or violation of the Constitution or the law by any person of any affiliation.

[Al-'Umayr] Are you worried for the democratic experiment in Yemen?

[Salih] No, I am not worried. There are policies and constant principles. Democracy is a must. I am always talking about democracy. Democracy has perhaps caused us many problems and made us and the officials angry, but we maintain that an absence of democracy would be worse than that. Some people perhaps believe that democracy is bad because they are not used to it, but it is not worse than dictatorship. When there is democracy we learn and we benefit from correcting mistakes.

(I was never more reassured about the situation in Yemen than when the Yemeni president began to talk about the economy, because of all the leaders I have met I have found him to be one of those who deeply understand the importance of the economy and the importance of putting it before political eloquence and the security solution as well. His stopover in France only reflects Yemen's economic preoccupation.

(He says that his visit to France is a private one and that "it took place on my way back to the homeland after having some medical tests in the United States, the results of which were good and reassuring, thank God. I met with President Jacques Chirac, with whom I have old friendship ties. We held positive talks on bilateral relations and ways of developing mutual cooperation at various political, economic, and cultural levels. We have advanced ties of friendship and cooperation with France. There are many French investments and French companies in Yemen, particularly in the fields of oil, gas, and communications. A gas agreement will soon be signed in Sanaa with the French company Total. Our talks also covered new regional and international developments, especially those pertaining to the peace process in the region, the situation in Bosnia, and the situation in Iraq and the fraternal Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the economic blockade. Yemeni-French relations are advanced, special, and growing in a way that serves the mutual interests of the French and Yemeni peoples."

(I tried to engage the president in conversation about Husayn Kamil by asking him what he though of the Jordanian-Egyptian altercation about him, but he very cleverly said: I have not followed that matter much. What we heard is what is in the press. There is nothing new. We in Yemen have many preoccupations and are these days busy preparing the first five-year plan and putting the Yemeni house in order from within. We are making preparations for a development plan that will transcend the negative aspects of past plans.)

[Al-'Umayr] What does that plan include?

[Salih] Preparations for it are under way. A general economic conference will be held to debate it before its approval, so that it will fulfill the reconstruction aspirations. It will focus on support for the completion of the building of the development structures, especially the services infrastructure, solving the water, electricity, roads, and communications problems, and concentrating on developing the national industries because most of our current industries are conversion industries. We are interested in founding strategic industries specializing in cement, steel, and petrochemicals. The five-year plan focuses on the industrial and services aspects.

[Al-'Umayr] How will you secure allocations for the plan? From loans, aid, or what?

[Salih] The funds will come from the royalties of our oil and gas exports. we are pinning great hopes on gas, in addition to local resources such as taxes, agricultural and industrial exports, as well as the facilities we hope to get from Arab and Islamic funds, the World Bank, and the fraternal Arab states.

[Al-'Umayr] Have you received any commitments from the fraternal states?

[Salih] The matter now is under discussion.

[Al-'Umayr] While still on the economic situation, we have noticed some improvement in the value of the Yemeni rial. Do you believe that improvement will continue?

[Salih] Improvement of the Yemeni rial is a result of the implementation of the economic, financial, and administrative reform program in addition to the psychological stability and the good relations between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, because they have a positive effect on the psychological aspect. Relations with Saudi Arabia are very important and vital and have a very strong influence, particularly because they are relations of neighborhood and destiny. Despite any misunderstanding that may have occurred in the past, Yemen will always be influenced by Saudi Arabia and vice versa. Now that the clouds which undermined our ties have passed, the situation is beginning to improve. You know very well that the Yemeni market is a large and essential market for Saudi products, which have begun to flow into Yemeni markets in large quantities. We encourage that because mutual interests positively and fruitfully enhance and strengthen relations.

[Al-'Umayr] Your excellency, you have made a point of meeting with businessmen who have links with Yemen in one way or another. It is clear that you pin hopes on investment.

[Salih] We encourage better Saudi and Gulf investment in Yemen. We are interested in that.

[Al-'Umayr] Are there measures and facilities for investors, bearing in mind what has been said about the complexity of the investment laws?

[Salih] On the contrary, there are excellent laws. The investment law is encouraging, but bureaucracy and red tape have complicated matters. The instructions, however, are that facilities should be provided by all departments. We have the General Investment Authority headed by Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, who is a prominent economist not only in Yemen but also internationally. He now heads that authority and the obstacles are beginning to disappear. Saudi businessmen have begun visiting Yemen. We above all encourage investors from the neighboring fraternal countries because of the interaction of interests. Interests are the most important factor in developing relations, more than words and political articles. When the interests of citizens interact, each side looks after its own rights, as in the case of Europe, which is anxious to maintain its relations with us just as we are anxious to maintain our relations with it. That should be even more so with neighbors and brothers, whose interests should interact. If you examine the Yemeni market now you will notice that it is very much influenced by the Saudi markets after the five-year economic lull. Now the doors between the Yemeni and Saudi markets have been opened and all Saudi products are entering Yemen and vice versa. One has a sense of interest. One has a few kilos of oil he would sell in Yemen, another a few kilos of bananas he would sell in Saudi Arabia. That is what matters in relations.

[Al-'Umayr] Is there a plan for the development of the southern regions in particular?

[Salih] One priority is the development of the regions which were under the totalitarian Marxist regime. The war has had an effect on the economy in general, not just the southern governorates but also areas in northeast Yemen which are lacking even the most basic services. That is why we are focusing our attention on them. These are what we call the remote regions which will get priority and special attention in the next development plan.

[Al-'Umayr] In your view, how many years are needed to complete the construction of the free zone?

[Salih] Matters pertaining to the free zone are proceeding well and accelerating. Negotiations with the companies which will carry out the construction are proceeding at a high and positive pace. We will start the free zone this year with port and airport measures. The construction of port docking facilities will begin in the remainder of this year and next year, with an eventual capacity of 3 million containers. Construction will continue for five years to make Aden a free zone.

[Al-'Umayr] You have mentioned the Saudi factor in building the Yemeni economy. How do you view the future of your relations with your northern neighbor?

[Salih] As I have been saying frankly from the beginning, there were some clouds in our relations with Saudi Arabia as a result of the attitude and actions of some regional and international forces which tried to undermine these previously excellent relations. Regrettably, the Gulf war harmed these relations, but once all facts were verified by all parties it became necessary to restore the old fraternal and special nature of these relations. Despite the cool relations, contacts continued even during the war, and delegations were exchanged between us and the kingdom. We were able to make great strides until the summit held between me and my brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques. That summit produced good remedies and we initiated some fine and excellent work after a period of misinformation in the interests of some local, regional, and international figures who sought to undermine our ties. We agreed on a specific mechanism for solving the border problem. Now the committees entrusted with that task are, on the basis of the memorandum of understanding, proceeding well. We and the brothers in the kingdom are satisfied with that.

[Al-'Umayr] You visited Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan when he was in Geneva. Did that visit have a special significance. What issues did you discuss, and how do you assess relations between Yemen and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] at present?

[Salih] My visit to my brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-sultan was a private visit emanating from the fraternal links between us. I reassured myself about his health after he had had some medical tests. It is not necessary to do everything in an official context or in a context of interests. There are personal, fraternal, cordial, and human relations which should always exist between brothers and friends.

As regards the fraternal relations between the two countries, they are good, developing, and getting stronger every day because no brother can do without his brother. Our aim is to enhance these ties together in fulfillment of the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples and the objectives of the Arab nation.

[Al-'Umayr] In the context of personal contacts, what is the story of the visit of the Kuwaiti ambassador in Washington, who called on you?

[Salih] The visit of the Kuwaiti ambassador in Washington was for the purpose of passing on congratulations to me from the amir of Kuwait on the good results of the [medical] tests. These are fraternal aspects.

[Al-'Umayr] But the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has denied that there have been contacts or anything like that.

[Salih] Perhaps they were referring to the political aspects, but fraternal and humanitarian aspects do exist between us and the brothers in Kuwait. Whether he came to see me in his personal capacity or in his official capacity, what is important is that he did visit me and I consider that visit to be a good brotherly initiative. That is in itself a good thing. We do not necessarily have to discuss the political aspect.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you expect any development in you relations with Kuwait?

[Salih] Relations do exist between us and Kuwait. They are old fraternal relations. They have always been special, exemplary relations. There is no problem as far as we are concerned.

[Al-'Umayr] Is there any mediation or efforts being made in that direction with the Kuwaitis?

[Salih] The situation does not require efforts or mediation. Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations will be restored sooner or later. Arab brothers have to get together and restore relations between themselves because none can stay away from the other. There may be a case of anger or emotion, and one would get angry with his brother, but these are transitory and temporary situations and brothers must get back together whatever happens and whatever the dispute.

[Al-'Umayr] Is it time for Yemen to join the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]?

[Salih] I answered this question once before. I said Yemen's natural place is in the GCC. But once more, and in this interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, I repeat: We have not previously applied to join the GCC and we would not refuse if asked to do so. Our natural place is in the GCC.

(Before I bid President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih farewell, the war flashed through my mind. Who would not remember the war in the presence of a Yemeni president since the beginning of the republican era, the anniversary of which will be commemorated tomorrow, and until President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's triumph over 'Ali Salim al- Bid? So I sought to conclude the interview by asking him about the war.)

[Al-'Umayr] Mr. President, how did that war affect you personally?

[Salih] It really was difficult, but one had faith that victory would be achieved because it was a national and strategic issue not a question of a party program or a ruler's mood. It was a national issue, and one felt proud and confident that victory would be scored because it was not a case of a ruler trying to impose what he wants. The ruler was upholding the cause of the nation. We were sure of victory from the moment the secessionists started the war despite the support, armament, and aid they had. We were as sure of victory as we were sure in the past of the victory of the Republic. The people embraced the cause of the Republic against these forces. Despite the sacrifices and the problems, the sense of victory was there because it was a national issue.

[Al-'Umayr] Was there a time when you felt despair?

[Salih] I had no feeling of despair. If I had I would have preferred not be alive. It was a national issue, a matter of principle and destiny.

(I am not sure, but I think that what he said was: If I felt despair I would have committed suicide. Yes, he probably said if I felt that way I would have committed suicide.)

President Issues Revolution Anniversary Statement

JN2809095295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Sep 95

["Political statement" by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the people on the occasion of the 26 September revolution anniversary; issued in Sanaa on 25 September—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to Him, lord of the worlds and peace and blessing be upon the last of the prophets and apostles, Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah, God's peace and blessings be upon him.

Dear brothers and compatriots, I extend to you a greeting of struggle and revolution, greeting of unity, democracy, and progress. I extend to you my warmest congratulations, coupled with my best wishes on the occasion of the Yemeni revolution days—the 33d anniversary of the 26 September revolution, the 32d anniversary of the 14 October revolution, and the 28th anniversary of Independence Day. On this treasured national occasion, we are all duty-bound to invoke mercy on our righteous martyrs who sacrificed their chaste souls and pure blood to uphold the revolution and achieve its goals. Let us remember with reverence and gratitude the role they played and the massive sacrifices they made. We are also duty-bound to greet all honorable strugglers whether those who departed to immortality or those who continued to sacrifice until the unity of the homeland triumphed on 7 July 1994. We are celebrating the glorious revolution anniversary under the canopy of the unity, which has become an established fact after the separatists had tried to abort it by going so far as to trigger the sedition of a bloody war with the aim of splitting the homeland once again after it had regained its unity. They, however, reaped only disgrace as God turned their machinations against them and foiled what they were about to achieve. Thus, God's words "and the unbelievers plotted and planned, and Allah too planned, and the best of planners is Allah" applied to them. In view of the victory we scored and the security and stability our country is enjoying today after suffering from the woes of sedition, war, and destruction caused by the criminal separatists for over a year, we must on this and every occasion thank God profoundly for all the countless blessings he bestowed on our country. Praise goes to Him first and foremost. The separatists sought to sever the bonds of unity and return the homeland to the dark era of hateful fragmentation by fabricating crises and kindling fratricide and sedition among the sons of the one people, placing their personal interests over those of the people, giving supremacy to their narrow-minded personal and partisan ambitions, and plotting against the people's will and their choice of unity and democracy. Sons of our struggling people, at this historic moment when we are celebrating this great anniversary, feelings flow abundantly to draw up a decisive line between a dark era in the life of our Yemeni people under the despotic tyranny and hateful colonialist hegemony on the one hand, and a new era replete with great events and changes in the history of the homeland and its militant march on the other. The new era was full of sacrifices, suffering, and hopes as well as accomplishments and victories. It is an era during which our struggling Yemeni people scored the greatest and brightest of immortal epics which were crowned with the triumph of their will to be liberated from the imamate rule and gain glorious independence, reunite the homeland, and defend the unity against all challenges. What is symbolic is that our renewed celebration today of the immortal Yemeni revolution reflects the ideology and course of the revolution as well as the sublime aims and national humanitarian spirit as expressed by the revolution. This celebration also expresses loyalty to the immortal principles of our revolution, for which our Yemeni people offered convoys of righteous martyrs. The Yemeni revolution was not staged to achieve limited aims whose results would end with the attainment of these aims, but to attain perpetuity which fosters further progress and prosperity for the homeland and people. This immortal and eternal fact will continue to shine as brightly as the sun in the conscience of our generations and bear witness to the solidity and brilliance of the Yemeni revolution among the revolutions of the age. This fact stems from the radical changes witnessed by the homeland after the revolution and its splendid march and from the substantial difference between the image of Yemen before the revolution and its image today on the threshold of the 21st century. Marching along the path of the revolution was not easy and the road was neither paved or strewn with rosy dreams and roses; it faced massive challenges and all sorts of dangers over which our people triumphed with resolve, determination, struggle, and great sacrifices until they achieved what they wanted.

Dear compatriots, it is our people's destiny to get out of one battle only to engage in another and to move from one victory only to score another. After the elimination of the secessionist plot, our people had to attend to the national task of rebuilding what was destroyed in war and waging the battle of economy and development. What calls for pride and appreciation is that our people, who suffered, endured, and dearly sacrificed in the epic of defending the unity, managed to overcome all difficulties and traces of the war. They spared no effort to contribute to their new battle. They supported the government efforts toward construction, reform, and resolution of problems caused by the crisis and the war. They effectively contributed to the success of the first stage of the economic, financial, and administrative reform program, whose positive results began to emerge on the level of reforming the various aspects of the economic and administrative imbalance, restoring the strength of the national currency against foreign currencies, bringing down prices, and improving the people's living standards.

The government is now preparing the first five-year development plan for the years 1996-2000, which will establish top-priority development projects and basic services on the basis of economic, social, geographic, and demographic criteria. It will also establish strategic industries to meet the needs of development. The government will continue its efforts to implement the remaining economic reform programs, combat financial and administrative corruption, improve production, encourage investment, exports, trade exchange, and competition among products. It will also pay greater attention to agriculture, tourism, and fishery wealth. It will continue the march of construction and development which stumbled over the past five years due to internal and external circumstances. The most important of these were the political upheavals anad the crisis fabricated by the secessionists and their allies in the homeland. We greatly hope that the second phase of reforms will achieve better stability and living standard along the road to a comprehensive reform and integrated development. Our hopes are redoubled by the fact that there are huge capabilities in terms of human resources and material wealth in our country. Efforts will continue to invest them in the interest of the homeland and its development.

Within this framework, the final agreement on a project to liquefy and export natural gas was signed a few days ago between Yemen and the French Total Company. Negotiations are under way with U.S. Hunt and Exxon companies with the aim of having them participate in this project which will produce gas at an annual rate of 5 million tonnes and for 25 years. Investments in this gigantic vital project are estimated at $3 billion. It will bring annual revenues of about $600 million which will be used to boost agricultural and industrial development, improve services, and attain progress and prosperity for the people. Exploration and production of oil, gas, and minerals are in full swing in the concession areas of the companies operating there. The current overall oil production in the republic from Sector No. 18 in Ma'rib and al-Jawf and Sector No. 14 in the al-Masilah area in the Hadhramaut Governorate is about 350,000 barrels per day. Production of crude oil in these oil fields is expected to increase next year due to the continuing digging of developmental wells, in addition to new fields which will begin production in the Jannah area, known as Sector No. 5, after the completion of installations including the laying of oil pipelines. Production will be about 25,000 barrels per day next year, and can increase. This is in addition to the (Farid) and 'Atud in the eastern part of Shabwah, known as Sector No. 10, which will begin production soon. Initial production is expected to be about 12,000 barrels per day.

Exploration and excavations are also continuing in all parts of the Republic. The oil companies operating in our country, which are about 26 world companies, are surveying and digging exploratory wells. There are positive signs on the presence of oil in many areas. Efforts will continue to study and assess its economic feasibility. Oil was also discovered in commercial quantities in the (Qaribah) and (Hisn al-Karadis) wells in eastern Shabwah by the French Total Company. Other oil projects are also being carried out, most important of which is the development and modernization of Aden refinery. Bids offered by specialized companies are being studied and negotiations with them are under way. Work to develop the refinery is expected to begin in 1996.

As for the Aden free zone, all necessary executive measures were taken to establish it. We are confident that the zone will witness an important qualitative step in a manner that will enable the valiant city of Aden to restore its vital role as an important, historic port in the service of national economy and comprehensive development.

Dear compatriots, the wheels of construction are running fast and we, God willing, will not stop. We hope that these accomplishments will serve as steps along the long road in order to reinforce the gains of the Yemeni revolution. We will continue to promote the strong ties of unity among the people during the next phase. We will also reinforce the government alliance between the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Reform Grouping on the basis of the alliance document in a manner that will boost the pillars of national and political stability. We will continue to develop the democratic experience, safeguard rights and public and private liberties, ensure the freedom of expression and that of the press, support the responsible national opposition whose presence is essential, considering it the other face of government, but on condition of abiding by the Constitution and law and respecting the principle of peaceful rotation of power away from violence, bickering, and practices that are harmful to the higher national interest. Free compatriots: Our celebration of the Yemeni revolution anniversary this year coincides with the great victories which took our homeland to larger horizons involving the concerns of the Arab and Islamic nation and what Yemen should do to restore the spirit of solidarity and accord to the ranks of the disrupted nation. The Republic of Yemen has adopted a pan-Arab policy conscious of the problems impeding the development and enhancement of relations between one country and another. We have made an important and advanced step toward rebuilding bridges of confidence and eliminating all factors of alienation and disagreement. Our country's relations with brothers and friends have witnessed important developments serving the joint interests and fruitful cooperation between our people and their brothers and friends.

On this occasion, we would like to express satisfaction with the level of our relations with the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The summer cloud which overshadowed them for some time has cleared up, so that these distinguished relations can proceed toward a new era of fraternity, amity, and cooperation. The joint committees formed by the memorandum of understanding signed by the two sisterly countries are continuing their work successfully, and are scoring positive results along the road of resolving the problem of the Yemeni-Saudi borders and bolstering relations and spheres of cooperation between the two sisterly countries in the interest of both sides and in the interest of stability and prosperity of the Arabian Peninsula and the region in general.

Sons of our esteemed Yemeni people, it grieves us to note that while we are celebrating this glorious occasion and the accomplishments of our people, some fraternal peoples are suffering a great deal. The fraternal Iraqi people and the fraternal Libyan people are still suffering due to the continuation of the economic embargo on them. We would like to express our solidarity with them, and call on all good ones in the world to listen to their human conscience and do whatever they can to alleviate the suffering of these two fraternal peoples. We also express our solidarity with our Muslim brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina, who are suffering from the ugliest types of aggression and tough human suffering at the hands of the Serb aggressors. We praise the efforts being exerted by the international community to curb these Serb aggressions and solve the problem peacefully in a manner that guarantees the Muslim Bosnian people's right to live peacefully on their land in an independent state. What calls for pride and appreciation is that noble and honorable stand taken by our great Yemeni people to the side of their Muslim brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This was expressed through their generous donations, their brotherly and humanitarian sympathy with their suffering, and their unlimited solidarity with their just cause. We will also not forget the suffering of our people in Somalia and Afghanistan. We beseech God to inspire the fighters there and compel them to resort to reason and dialogue to end the tragedies in these two sisterly countries so that their people will enjoy stability, peace, and accord.

Brother compatriots, I would like to seize this opportunity to greet the heroes of the Armed Forces and security forces, the protectors of the revolution and the homeland, stressing to them that we will continue to give special attention to their institution in order to enhance their efficiency and capability, prepare them properly, and improve the living and moral standards of their personnel so that they will always be ready to defend the homeland and safeguard its sovereignty, independence, security, and stability.

Finally, I beseech God to have mercy on the souls of our righteous martyrs and the martyrs of the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt, who watered the Yemeni land with their pure blood, beseeching the Almighty to have mercy on them and make their abode with the martyrs and the righteous people.

Many happy returns of the occasion. God's peace and blessing be upon you.

U.S. Policy Examined, Said To Lack 'Rationalism'

JN2209170395 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 14 Sep 95 p 3

[Article by Sami Mahdi: "The Truth About the U.S. Attitude to Iraq Is That It Is Unprincipled, Nonobjective, and Irrational"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. attitude to Iraq lacks the least amount of objectivity and rationalism. It is ignorant in every sense of the word. It is ignorant because it is fanatic, sinful, willful, narrow-minded, shortsighted, and one-track minded. It is ignorant because it is not based on the principles and moral standards acknowledged by the international community and accepted as norms for international dealings such as independence, non-interference in internal affairs, and a people's right to choose their political and social systems in light of their special circumstances, heritage, and culture. It is ignorant because it is based on concepts and assumptions about Iraq, its people, and leadership formed by Zionism, which permeates U.S institutions. It is not based on clear, accurate information; a deep understanding of Iraq's reality, history, nature as a state, people, and leadership; or even on the desire to acknowledge these things.

Thus, this attitude is characterized by fickleness, fumbling, recklessness, arrogance, and adventurism and lacks any inclination to reconsider, contemplate, and distinguish between right and wrong; or any desire to deal with the facts and the reality on the ground in an objective and rational manner.

The United States has ruled that Iraq is dangerous, threatens its interests, and is therefore a dire enemy. It has decided to remove this enemy from its path, not only by pulling out its teeth and clipping its nails, but by pounding its neck, destroying and crushing it, and possibly wiping it completely out of existence. Did they not say once that they would wipe Iraq off the map?!

As we said, this attitude lacks objectivity and rationalism. It also lacks any correct basis and balanced standards to which the international community conforms on the basis of the UN Charter. To be objective, Iraq is not the enemy of the United States or any other state. The world knows that the United States is a great power, and this in this capacity it has a leading role in the international community. The world also know that the United States has international responsibilities and multifaceted, broad interests. Iraq may differ with the United States concerning the nature, degree, and responsibility of this role; it may also have its own opinion on the limits of U.S. interests; and it may not be pleased in one way or another with the methods the United States uses in carrying out its role and expressing its responsibilities and interests. However, in the final analysis, Iraq deals with them objectively according to the standards applied by the international community; foremost, the UN Charter. At any rate, this does not justify such U.S. enmity toward Iraq.

It is the United States that wants to make Iraq its enemy regardless of its true position to its role, responsibility, and interests. It is literally forcing its enmity on Iraq on the basis of a deliberate, stubborn decision. It is as if the United States has a need to fabricate such enmity. On the other hand, if the U.S. Administration were to view Iraq objectively without such deliberate enmity and intentional bias, it would find that Iraq is one of the basic pillars of security, stability, and peace in the region. Without an Iraq living a normal international life, the security of the region will remain threatened and unstable, and its states will remain subject to grave dangers threatening their interests and those of the states that deal with them, including the interests of the United States itself.

The proof is the actual reality we are witnessing in the region today despite the devastating blow dealt to Iraq in 1991, the removal of its weapons of mass destruction, the monitoring of its armaments, and the imposition of a general embargo on it for more than five years. We say that despite all these things, neither the region nor any of its states today enjoys security and stability. The reason is not Iraq itself, nor the nature of its political system or type of leadership, as is so clear and obvious, but the enmity to Iraq and the attempt to weaken it and eliminate its role from the balance of power in the region.

Every country in the region now feels somewhat exposed because of this—even those states that are not sympathetic to Iraq's political regime and national leadership. They all wish that a miracle would take place to restore the region to normalcy. The United States has tried alone, and also with others, to achieve this miracle in its own special way. It tried through all-out aggression against Iraq, by blockade, strangulation, and depriving Iraq of its role, and by trying to break it up and overtly and covertly plotting against it and its national leadership — but it failed miserably each time. It did not succeed in this type of miracle. Instead of the U.S. Administration revising its calculations, changing its opinion about Iraq, and dealing with the facts in a rational way, it became too personal, revanchist, and lacked any sense of consideration.

Why is the United States doing this? What does it want from Iraq? The United States behaves toward Iraq only as an imperialist power that covets its wealth and wants it ruled by an agent regime that will place Iraqi wealth at its disposal and carry out its policy. It covers all this up with false claims and allegations, such as the call for implementing international legitimacy and defending democracy and human rights.

This is the truth of the matter, or at least the impression given by the U.S. attitude to Iraq. Still, we will assume that the United States is concerned about international legitimacy and that it wants Iraq to implement the Security Council resolutions, as it claims. So we say: If the U.S. claim is indeed correct, then the United States should adopt an attitude to Iraq based on the provisions of the Security Council resolutions, headed by Resolution 687; and it should deal with Iraq on the basis of the findings of the [Rolf] Ekeus commission. Since Iraq has fulfilled this resolution, including Paragraph C as certified by Ekeus himself; and, since Iraq has accepted future monitoring of its armaments, which has been imposed on it under Resolution 715, then the United States should not block the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. It should prove that it is a great power with credibility, not an international dictator. It should not lay on Iraq any condition, whether political or apolitical, outside this resolution. Any other condition the United States wants to impose on Iraq will only be an act of ill will, deliberate bias, and double-dealing. This will not only deny it any credibility, but also confirm its desire to get revenge from an Iraq that it could not dominate; a people who have defended their country, resisted dependence and protected their wealth; and a leadership that has not abandoned its country's independence.

But the United States conceals this attitude with a transparent cover. It claims concern for democracy and human rights in Iraq. It is neither truthful in this concern nor serious about what it claims. It is only using this claim as an excuse to harm Iraq and its people, and to make up for its failure to achieve its selfish and illegitimate aims—imperialist aims that have nothing to do with international legitimacy, the desire to spread democracy and protect human rights, concern for the security and stability in the region, or fear for its legitimate interests in this region.

The United States uses its claims as a cover for a new form of imperialist domination. It believes that conditions in the world and in Iraq provide it with an historic opportunity which it must exploit in order to impose its hegemony on Iraq. It is trying to exploit the United Nations and its charter to achieve its aim. Had it been principled and truthful in its claims about democracy and human rights, the United States would not have been selective in making such claims and allegations, or used double standards and deliberate, careful timing. For instance, while we observe that it is waging an extensive disinformation campaign against Iraq over these claims inside and outside UN agencies, it is keeping silent about other states—whether in this region or elsewhere—whose citizens do not enjoy the most fundamental democratic and human rights. There are many well-known examples; the most that it does to these states is to direct slight, courteous criticism against them in some newspaper that is shelved the day after publication.

The Government of the United States cannot be more concerned than the great Iraqi leadership about creating a democratic atmosphere and guaranteeing human rights for the Iraqi citizens. The great Iraqi leadership believes in democracy and human rights in principle, and believes that the Iraqi citizen, who has built, fought, resisted, and sacrificed, fully deserves the right to enjoy his democratic and human rights. Despite the need to impose certain essential emergency measures to protect and consolidate national security, the national leadership has made a point of exploiting every opportunity to take steps to alleviate these emergency measures, deepen and expand democratic practices, and entrench and safeguard human rights.

No other country experienced the kind of events that Iraq had witnessed over the past three decades; events that not only discouraged democratic progress, but also violated human rights — armed gangs in the north, Iranian aggression for eight years, a devastating 30-state aggression, a general embargo lasting more than five years, and all kinds of internal and external plots. Still, the great Iraqi leadership has taken several basic measures to strengthen democracy, safeguard human rights, and exploit every opportunity to alleviate emergency measures. Let us review some of the steps that the leadership has taken in this regard since the 17-30 July revolution, relying on memory alone:

—Approving party politics and the establishment of a national progressive front before any other country in the region;

—Issuing the 11 March Declaration guaranteeing Kurdish rights within the national unity;

—Founding popular federations, unions, societies, clubs, and organizations as well as people's councils through free democratic elections;

—Granting autonomy to the Kurdistan region and allowing the election of its legislative and executive councils;

—Founding the National Assembly and the selection of the people's representatives through free direct elections;

—Continually revising legislation, laws, regulations, decisions, and measures to strengthen democracy and safeguard human rights;

—Issuing general amnesty decisions in favor of political and nonpolitical detainees from time to time;

—Holding open forums between administrative officials or party organizations or both and the citizens to explain stands and policies, answer queries, and solve problems;

—Discussing the subject of democracy and pluralism within the party leadership, acknowledging the principle of pluralism, and drafting two laws; the first dealing with parties, and the second with the press and permitting local papers to publish people's opinions on these two drafts;

—Last but not least, the amendment to the Constitution, the approval of the principle of a general public referendum, and making the post of the president of the Republic subject to free, direct referendum by the people.

These and other measures have been taken by Iraq's great national leadership to consolidate democracy and human rights. It has adopted all of them under unsuitable circumstances—difficult and extraordinary circumstances under which the enemies have been and still are lying in wait for Iraq and plotting against it and its leadership. They have not given Iraq a single opportunity to catch its breath and build the model of security, stability, and comfort it wants. Hardly any of these measures have been taken in any other state in the region or the world. Yet the United States has not shown any enmity toward them or demanded what it is demanding from Iraq.

In fact, the United Stats does not want to give Iraq the opportunity to build its own model of democracy. It wants Iraq to remain disturbed, threatened, and unable to completely remove the emergency measures so it can continue defaming it and its wise leadership and find false justifications for its claims and allegations. There is no other explanation for its continued threats, pressure, and siege against Iraq.

Therefore we say that the U.S. attitude to Iraq is unprincipled, biased, and irrational. The United States replaces dialogue with blackmail, arrogance, threats, and force. It tries to exploit the implementation of international legitimacy and the defense of democracy and human rights as a cover for this, because what the United States really wants is domination of Iraq and the imposition of an agent regime so it can seize its national resources—chiefly its oil wealth and enormous reserves—whether directly or indirectly.

While we do not expect the United States to reconsider its attitude as long as Zionism roosts in its institutions and imperialist ambitions block its vision, we hope that the international community will understand these facts, reject this attitude, and respond to the Iraqi demand to rescind the unfair embargo.

The United States has hideously exploited the present international circumstances by assigning itself a role that should have been an international one. It has also arrogated to itself unlimited international responsibilities and made its imperialist ambitions and interests legitimate. Moreover, the United States has assumed the right to reorganize the world, form its new image, and determine its future horizons. This is "the end of history" and it is "the leader of the world" and "its spiritual and moral father." It is also directly responsible for all of its affairs.

Thus, the United States has gone about interfering in every small and big thing in the affairs of the world and its states, including Iraq. The United States has thus exceeded its special responsibilities as a member of the international community. It has also gone beyond the limits of the privileges granted it by this community in its capacity as a great power. It has granted itself the right to play the role of judge, juror, and hangman in every issue. And this is what it is doing today with Iraq.

Failure of U.S. 'Deception Operation' Seen

JN2409181495 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 16 Sep 95 pp 1,3

["Viewpoint" column by editor-in-chief Salah al-Mukhtar: "Now That the Biggest U.S. Deception Operation Has Failed, What Were the Bases of That U.S. Scenario and How and Why Was the United States Defeated?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nearly five weeks ago, the United States set off a time bomb whose reverberation created such a big shock in the area and the world that most outsiders thought that it destroyed the bases of the Iraqi entity and heralded its collapse, which only needed a few days to be complete! Correspondents of foreign news agencies, newspapers, and television networks rushed to Baghdad to witness the collapse, which the United States confirmed would take place in a matter of days!

A German television correspondent, who was one of those who came to Baghdad following the U.S. blast, told me: When I heard of the defection of Husayn Kamil and the propaganda uproar which followed, I was almost convinced that Iraq would collapse, possibly within a few hours. So, I rushed to Baghdad as quickly as possible to be a witness to the dismantling of Iraq!

What was said by the German correspondent, who had known the area for more than 15 years, was typical of the general view held by Arab and world public after the 8 August 1995 bomb, which was planted and publicized by Western news media, especially Monte Carlo Radio, the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Voice of America, and Kuwait radio, and the numerous statements by U.S. and Arab officials; statements that were absolutely confident that the Iraqi political regime was on the verge of collapse. Thus, people began talking about Iraq after the collapse.

To complete this big theatrical scene, we saw several parties moving, deliberating, maneuvering, and negotiating! Some of them went so far in their expectations to speaking about how Iraq would look under their leadership! Thus, the area was covered by a dark, gloomy cloud portending the worst circumstances, which raised the state of anxiety in the region, especially since certain U.S. quarters also predicted, and wished, that massacres would occur in Iraq and drew a gloomy picture of the future of Iraq!

The days passed without the big collapse taking place in Iraq. The weeks also followed one another without the emergence of a single sign of instability in Iraq. Conditions continued to be normal and the change, which they had predicted, took place but it followed a different direction; namely, the direction of rallying the Iraqi people around their leader President Saddam Husayn. The appointment of 15 October 1995 as the day for a public referendum on the presidency was one manifestation of that change. [passage omitted]

Indeed, it was a big deceptive game against Iraq and its people as well as the people and governments of the region and the world to control Iraq, without even fulfilling the conditions of success for establishing such control. Therefore, we must explain to everyone, especially the Iraqi people, the main bases and nature of the recent U.S. scenario, now that we have the evidence, definite information, and official confessions from U.S. quarters and others proving that the United States had indeed set off a huge bomb, but it was only a percussion and a smoke bomb which was intended to scare the Iraqis, undermine their steadfastness, and possibly open a crack in the wall of their unity to facilitate a quick entry into Iraq, according to U.S. assessments!

What were the bases of the U.S. scenario? It is very clear, now that the big hopes for Iraq's collapse have evaporated and the heroes of the deceptive game have admitted their failure, which is obvious from the fact that not a single Iraqi soldier or civilian has fallen into this deceptive trap; we say, it is very clear that the U.S. scenario was originally based on the admission of two facts:

1. The overwhelming majority in the UN Security Council has begun to see the Iraqi view, which meant the isolation of the United States and the imminent removal of the economic embargo, with all the consequences entailed by the total collapse of the U.S. plan against Iraq and the region.
2. The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which has cooperated with all the devils on earth, has failed to come up with a successful plan to change the Iraqi regime. The United States had realized that the chances of controlling the Iraqi regime from within were practically non-existent under the present, stable Iraqi internal conditions. The CIA director's testimony before the congressional intelligence committee in January 1995 revealed that the United States pooled its resources and options to overthrow the Iraqi regime within six months; that was by June or July 1995. The director clearly admitted in his testimony that if no change took place in Iraq within those six months in favor of the United States, then that would mean the end of all U.S. hopes. He also admitted clearly that the United States had neither strong influence nor collaborators in Iraq. Therefore, the only thing left was a desperate suicidal option; a plan to attempt a criminal attack on the precious life of the leader president by one or two persons at the most. It was assumed that the incident would create cause commotion, chaos, and massacres in Iraq, and possibly make some people, especially in the armed forces, change loyalty and therefore betray their homeland and the people. This was how Iraq would be penetrated!

This was contained in the CIA director's testimony in January 1995, in which he also confirmed the lack of any effective or influential elements which could change the regime. Thus, the criminal U.S. options turned to mean acts such as assassinations and attack on the lives of leaders as a means to resolve the difficult Iraqi crisis. Any intelligent Iraqi citizen could easily conclude that by this deceptive scenario the United States was wagering on the traitorous and criminal cooperation of one of the president's aides and not on organized collective action.

For the plan to the succeed, particularly in the absence of any internal support, the perpetrator needed to be brave enough to the point of readiness to sacrifices his own life, since his mission would be to spark a serious sedition, which the United States and others would exploit by sending troops from outside to back the traitor or whoever falls for such a sedition. This would increase the number of people on whom the

United States would depend, so that instead of relying on only two persons, there would be a large number of other desperate, misled, and short-sighted persons.

But this scenario failed at its most important stage; the stage of prompting one or two persons to carry out the crime of attempting the precious life of leader President Saddam Husayn, because the renegade Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam lacked the courage and the readiness to die. When they realized that no one in Iraq was willing to sell his country to imperialism and Zionism, and when Husayn Kamil discovered that a fact-finding commission was formed to look into his financial violations, the two brothers fled the country. Thus, the second phase of the scenario, which was to bring up outside support for the two renegade traitors inside, also turned useless and impossible! Thus also, the United States found itself in a choking dilemma. The six months that the CIA director considered the deadline for creating a change in Iraq has passed, the seventh month has also passed, the debate on the removal of the embargo is approaching a very positive stage, the two miserable men on whom the United States has depended have fled Iraq, and there are no other alternatives or options for creating a sedition in Iraq. [passage omitted]

The above provides the logical basis for posing a specific and sensitive question to every Iraqi who has followed the recent events and interacted with their developments. The question is: What are the main lessons and facts which have evolved and prevailed over all others?

No doubt, the most important lesson to evolve is that every Iraqi believes that what took place during the past few weeks was a big, mean deceptive attempt to convince the Iraqis through brain washing via the media about the possibility for change, and to make some individuals fall into this snare by exploiting them to carry out acts of sabotage against their homeland! [passage omitted]

The other lesson learned from the recent events is that one of the causes of the failure was the intelligence of the Iraqi citizen at every level, which made him rise and wonder: Does this uproar and drum-beating indicate real power; or is it just an act of blackmail and deception, especially since whoever has the ability to act does not create noise, but operate quietly? Unlike the U.S. citizen, the Iraqi individual is known for his great ability for endurance and not being easily swayed by events. This psychological make-up has helped him face the recent events with a large measure of coolness and logic.

But, perhaps the most important lesson of all is the ability of the Iraqi citizen to remain logical and calm in face of the blistering propaganda warfare. All that has enabled him to pose such questions as: What does the United States represent? Is it the friend of Iraq and the Arabs; or the most dangerous enemy of the Arabs and the biggest ally of Zionism? [passage omitted]

Thus, one of the most positive Iraqi characteristic to be manifested is that the Iraqi citizen cannot be carried away by what is being said. He interacts with events from a firm, solid base. He is convinced that his salvation, and that of every Iraqi, lies in remaining firm behind the factor of polarization and unification in Iraq; namely, President Saddam Husayn, regardless of the heavy storms and mean deceptions.

Indeed, they were historic days in which the Iraqis recorded another great fete. They demonstrated that they are not only the heroes of resistance against the worst forms of imperialism in history, the greatest builders and constructors in history, but also the heroes who have exposed all deceptive games, no matter how big and mean they are.

We are now crossing the last mine field that separates us from the removal of the embargo. Iraqi genius is succeeding in defusing one mine after another. God willing, what is left will be removed by the will of a great live people who are determined to survive. Iraq shall triumph. God is great.

Paper Comments on Sanctions, UN Report

JN2809112095 Baghdad INA in English
1150 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sept 27, INA—An Iraqi daily has called on the UN to restore its independence decision and live up to the Iraqis hope for a quick end to their unique plight.

In its editorial today BAGHDAD OBSERVER said that once more, it is the U.N that raises the alarm: famine threatens four million people in sanctions-hit Iraq.

A report prepared by U.N experts warns that "living conditions are precarious and are at pre-famine level". The report is based on a visit to Iraq in July and August by a U.N crop and nutrition status assessment mission.

The U.N mission travelled to all parts of Iraq and carried out household survey in several cities, including the capital Baghdad.

The U.N experts have at last drawn a very bleak picture of the food and nutritional situation in this country which is being willfully thrown into man-made famine.

The report is prepared by U.N experts themselves. Had any of the information it included been aired by Iraq, it would have instantly been branded as propaganda.

Baghdad, however, has its own figures and statistics which are fully known by the U.N and other circles but very few, if any, acknowledged them.

It is part of the policy of gagging the country to allow hostile media mills to churn our deafening spates of unfounded propaganda.

Paradoxically enough, the report is made by the same organization which is seen by most Iraqis as the mechanism of their starvation and anguish. All eyes in Iraq are set on the U.N corridors every two months in anticipation of anything that would assuage their sufferings.

But all they get is a worn-out response, namely that Iraq is not yet eligible for an easing of the sanctions.

The international organization seems to have become a source of frustration for at least Iraqis who by U.N standards and according to the U.N charter a people, a sizable people, who must be taken under the aegis of the world body.

Iraqis still look for the U.S [as received] as a source of hope. They have every reason to believe they must be catered for by the U.N who on so many occasions undertook causes of tiny nations scattered all over the world.

Regardless of the reasons furnished by the Security Council every two months to keep the crippling sanction clamped on Iraq regardless of the tortuous arguments and counter arguments, the whole issue is as simple as that: Here is an entire nation of 20 million people living a pare-famine situation. Should the U.N stand idly by, or should it to something to avert a real famine?

Iraqis are especially bitter about the fact that this thing is taking place not in a chronically drought-stricken country or in a desert land but in a land that has been the cradle of one of the most ancient civilisations, in a country which until recently was an example to be followed by fellow Third World states.

Five years of foot-dragging have left not a shadow of doubt about the fact that ending the sanctions is not governed by how much Iraq has complied with U.N resolutions. The end to sanctions and subsequently to the plight of Iraqis is certainly determined by a political will which is obviously intent on starving an entire nation to death.

Perhaps it is only case in the history of U.N that is the international organization that defines a problem and simultaneously acts to compound it.

Iraqis expect the U.N to restore its independent decision and live up to their hope for a quick end to their unique plight. Or, should they expect the U.N to toll the knell of their death?

Industry Minister Meets Russian Counterpart

JN2809055895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid Jasim, minister of industry and minerals, today met with Anatoliy Oktarov, minister of machine-building in the Russian Federation. [name and title as received]

They reviewed ways of promoting cooperation between the industrial corporations of the two countries.

The guest minister stressed his country's desire to continue joint cooperation in various industrial areas, as well as the readiness of the Russian corporations to discuss cooperation in projects Iraq wants to expand.

The Iraqi minister of industry and minerals expressed his ministry's desire to promote joint action to serve the interests of the two friendly countries.

The meeting was attended by the ministry's senior under secretary and the Russian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

The Russian minister of machine-building arrived in Baghdad today on a visit lasting several days. He is leading a delegation of several Russian industrial corporations, which will discuss ways to promote the existing cooperation between the development establishments of the two countries.

Council Authorizes Financial Awards for Informants

JN2709193695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1125 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Revolution Command Council issued a decree authorizing the competent minister or the establishment that is not affiliated to a ministry to grant financial awards to those who inform about theft crimes or embezzlement of state funds.

Kurd Leader Gives Interview on Plans, Issues

LD2709113695 London BBC World Service in Arabic 0510 GMT 27 Sep 95

[Interview of Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in Tehran, by unidentified correspondent in London on 26 September; from "The World This Morning" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Jalal Talabani, we have received news about an agreement reached between you and Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim [chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq— SAIRI] to form an opposition field command inside Iraq to topple the Iraqi regime, what are the details of this agreement?

[Talabani] A meeting was held with His Eminence Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim and the brothers, the leadership of SAIRI. An agreement has been reached in principle to work jointly to establish a field command from the Iraqi opposition forces (?in the homeland)....

[Correspondent, interrupting] Mr. Jalal, Mr. Jalal, I am sorry for interrupting, but would you be so kind to repeat the answer, what are the details of this agreement?

[Talabani] Yes, [laughs] yes, I am expressing my opinion, because you asked me, and I have to express my opinion.

[Correspondent] Mr. Jalal (?sorry).

[Talabani] A meeting was held with His Eminence Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim and the brothers at SAIRI, and an agreement was reached to work jointly to establish a field command from the Iraqi forces active in the homeland, to mobilize the potential of the Iraqi people, and guide it toward overthrowing the dictatorship and building up an independent, democratic, and parliamentary Iraq.

[Correspondent] But Mr. Jalal Talabani, is the Iraqi National Congress not representative of the grass roots you are talking about?

[Talabani] The Iraqi National Congress is an important part of the Iraqi opposition and it is required for this field command. However, the leadership of the congress itself accepted a few months ago the task of setting up a large-scale field command that will include forces within the congress and outside it.

[Correspondent] Mr. Jalal Talabani, why was the meeting planned between yourself and Mr. Mas'ud Barzani [leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party—KDP] in Washington cancelled or rather postponed?

[Talabani] The meeting was postponed for two reasons. First, Mr. Barzani refused to attend before the end of the Dublin discussions. The second reason is the failure of the second round of the Dublin talks to reach tangible results to translate the Declaration of Principles into clear tasks and facts.

[Correspondent] Mr. Jalal Talabani, so the question is: Why did the Dublin talks fail? Why did the second round of Dublin talks fail?

[Talabani] I think the failure of the second round — which does not mean canceling coming rounds — was due to two main reasons: First, the intransigent position of head of the Turkish delegation who wanted to impose the issue of the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan], which is not an Iraqi issue and not for discussion. Second, the withdrawal of....

[Correspondent, interrupting] Mr. Jalal, Would you be so kind to introduce the PKK? Would you please repeat the answer with the name of the separatist Kurdistan party.

[Talabani] Yes, yes, yes. The failure of the second round of the negotiations in Dublin — and as you know coming rounds will continue — was due to two main reasons: First, the intransigent position of head of the Turkish delegation regarding the Workers Party of Kurdistan, who wanted to include this issue in the discussions while it was not for discussion at the conference. Second, the delegation of the Kurdish Democratic Party went back on its initial agreement to hand over the revenues from the customs and other income to the bank and treasury of the regional government.

[Correspondent] Mr. Jalal Talabani, some Iranian newspapers reported a secret agreement between you and Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the separatist Workers Party of Kurdistan, which provoked the resentment of the Turkish Government.

[Talabani] These reports are not true, void of truth. I personally did not meet Mr. Ocalan until after the failure of the second round of Dublin negotiations was announced.

[Correspondent] What happened at that meeting?

[Talabani] We discussed the political and military situation in Iraqi Kurdistan and I personally asked him to resolve the disagreements existing between them and the Iraqi Kurdish Democratic Party through political means. We also discussed their position, which should be, as Mr. Ocalan said, much clearer. He openly declared his hostility to terrorism and declared his commitment and that of his party to respect the laws of the European countries where the Kurds live. He also expressed his desire for a political solution and his readiness to declare a unilateral truce in order to give the good people the opportunity to find a political solution to the Kurdish cause in Turkey.

[Correspondent] Mr. Jalal Talabani, you have been quoted as saying that the efforts of the Iraqi opposition are not incompatible with Iran's steps to normalize relations with Iraq. It is common knowledge that Iran is the main supporter of the Iraqi opposition. How can you explain this in the context I have mentioned?

[Talabani] The Iraqi state and the Islamic Republic of Iran are two neighboring countries and they must have diplomatic relations. They must make joint efforts to normalize relations. As for the Iraqi opposition, which represents the basic forces of the Iraqi people, it is the competent body and is responsible for mobilizing the capabilities of the Iraqi people and the struggle of the Iraqi people to ensure the success of its mission.

I believe that the Islamic Republic is not opposed to the Iraqi opposition forces in their struggle for the realization of their goals. This is why I do not see any contradiction between these two positions.

Kurd Group Denies Report of Attack

JN2809073395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 24 September, the central radio station of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] carried a report in which it claimed that PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party] fighters launched an attack on the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] positions in Choman, Kasrog, and other areas in the (Sawran) region, inflicting heavy losses on the KDP forces.

A press spokesman of our party said the PUK radio report is baseless; the PKK did not launch any attack on this region.

The spokesman made the following points:

1. The Choman, Kasrog, and the (Sawran) region in general are regarded one of the military axes between our party and the PUK. Indeed, the region from the Hajj 'Umran until the [name indistinct] axes are all part of the axes of confrontation between the KDP and PUK forces. Therefore, any attack that is launched against the KDP forces in these areas, including the (Sawran) region, be it on behalf of the PKK or others, is regarded as an attack by the PUK itself because without their assistance no other military force can attack the KDP.
2. While refuting the PUK radio report, we emphasize that if the PKK armed elements carry any military activities in this region, we will regard that a major violation of the cease-fire by the PUK forces.
3. The PKK forces mentioned by the PUK radio did not launch an attack in these areas. However, it is obvious that the PUK leadership wishes that something of this nature takes place to realize their aims of spreading anarchy in the (Sawran) region under PKK cover.

We draw the attention of the people, the parties, and the political groups to the dire consequences that might result from these stands and we will confront any attack from any axis with the same strength we employed in the Bahdinan area.

Editorial Condemns Turkey's Actions, Policy

95LH0259A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 26 Jul 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] "Strange paradoxes govern the nature of Turkish policy" is the main heading that could be produced by any observer tracking the course and outcomes of Turkish thinking regarding Turkish-Iraqi relations and the tyrannical blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. Before we enter into details, it should first be said that Turkish political currents are dominated by an executive known to have connections with centers of influence in U.S. politics. This has pulled Turkey away from its own interests and has led it to make faulty decisions, which are, and have been, undermining the Turkish people's legitimate interests. How is it that Turkey is abandoning its interests to look out for the interests of others?

During the crisis period that followed 2 August 1990, Turkey has striven—even to the extent of damaging its own interests—to support currents hostile to Iraq. It joined in the hostile actions of 1991, and it has participated actively in the oppressive blockade, hoping to obtain, through its political dissimulation vis-a-vis the imperialist West, tangible gains as a reward for its condemnable role. The U.S. Administration and the entire colonialist West have made many promises to Turkey but have extended few benefits to it. Turkey has incurred a net loss estimated in the billions of dollars, which is reflected in high unemployment, high inflation, and instability in Turkey. Turkey, particularly southeastern Turkey, has been experiencing insecurity and instability because of its hosting of the suspect, so-called "Hammer" forces, which has led to abnormal conditions in northern Iraq.

Instead of paying attention to the highly threatened interests of their country and people, some Turkish politicians have begun, with the utmost negligence, to engage in futile, military conspiracies in northern Iraq within imagined bases of the Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK). They are doing so in blatant violation of international laws and historical patterns of good neighborliness, without achieving any positive results. On the contrary, conditions in Turkey have gone from bad to worse. Turkey's only remedy is to return to the logic of truth and justice. Doing so would serve Turkey's interests first of all, and the interests of neighboring Iraq, which adheres closely to international conventions and treaties and has good neighborly relations and historical ties with the Turkish people, to which it is connected by bonds of friendship.

Here, it should be said that Europe and the United States, through NATO (for which Turkey has made many sacrifices), have never supported Turkey's desire to become integrated within the European environment. Despite Turkey's geopolitical extension into Europe, it is denied—for well-known, interlocking economic, cultural, and historical reasons—admission to leading European organizations such as the EEC, the European Union, and future projects of unified Europe. Therefore, Turkey has a clear interest in turning to its Asian affiliation and its natural, advantageous position as the path to the Asian-European future. This position offers international prospects that can bring Turkey enormous advantages, especially in view of its large-scale, profitable economic integration with a strong, stable Iraq—its active neighbor and partner. Iraq enjoys enormous economic capabilities that can effectively help Turkey ease and solve its chronic problems in a way that will spare Turkish society the many convulsions and rifts that could be generated by the great dangers threatening its future, dangers whose portents have begun to appear clearly on the horizon.

Broad segments of Turkish politicians and media agencies of various leanings have stated that the oppressive blockade imposed on Iraq has caused Turkey to incur damages estimated at more than $50 billion. They have also said that the presence of the so-called "Hammer" forces on their suspect mission and Turkish decisionmakers' unjustified bowing to the U.S. malicious will have damaged not only Iraq, but Turkey itself, perhaps even more than Iraq. All of these interwoven factors, which are known to the most casual observer of Turkish political affairs, point clearly to the way in which Turkey's favorable geopolitical position, which has been severely undermined by the behavior of Turkish politicians, can be cultivated.

Loyal Turks stress publicly that the expulsion of the foreign forces, the termination of their suspect presence on Turkish soil, and dialogue with the central Iraqi authority will ensure the end of the abnormal situation in northern Iraq. These measures will definitely allay Turkey's security concerns and provide it with the stability it seeks, without condemnable, costly, and ineffective military conspiracies. They will also be a good start to solving most of Turkey's other problems.

It is well known that Turkey's economy did not thrive or witness rapid, balanced development until after it became broadly intermeshed with the Iraqi economy, based on legitimate, mutual benefit. Most of Turkey's problems stem from European and U.S. refusal to integrate economically with Turkey on a large scale; the imposition by Western financial institutions of degrading, subordinating, stunting conditions on Turkey's economy; and the Western markets' rejection of Turkish goods based on complaints about taste, specifications, general health and environmental requirements, and other factors. Therefore, Turkey's primary problem can be solved only through efforts on its part to break the oppressive blockade imposed on Iraq. Turkey can do so under Article 50 of the UN Charter, which permits Turkey to break the blockade to avoid the damages that the unjustified continuation of the blockade is causing it. If it does so, broad horizons would become open to it to reintegrate its ruined economy with the Iraqi economy. The Iraqi economy can provide Turkey with numerous opportunities for solving its difficult problems and crises. Then, quiet and stability will return to Turkish society, especially if Turkish officials take serious steps to remedy Turkey's social, national, and cultural problems in a spirit of responsibility, which places Turkey's interests and future above the interests of the United States and the colonialist West, with their malicious schemes and desires.

Therefore, the breaking of the blockade and termination of the presence of foreign forces are the key to a peaceful solution to all of Turkey's problems. These measures would also certainly guarantee good, neighborly relations and a thriving socioeconomic future for both Iraq and Turkey in the framework of a joint, active role, which would promote stability, security, and prosperity for the entire region and would ensure the future that its people desire.

Cabinet Endorses Taba Accord, Prisoner Release

TA2709142395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet endorsed the Oslo B agreement by a majority of votes a few minutes ago. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Ministers Shim'on Shetrit and Gonen Segev abstained. Minister Shetrit told our correspondent that he had abstained because Israel could have achieved more in the agreement, especially regarding the holy sites. Minister Segev said that the State of Israel has not clearly defined its ultimate goals.

In an interim vote, the cabinet had earlier endorsed the clause in the Oslo agreement calling for the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

Minister Gonen Segev abstained, alluding to the clause on the release of female prisoners with Jewish blood on their hands to justify his abstention.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that according to the decision, between 2,100 and 2,400 Palestinian prisoners will be released. Police Minister Shahal stressed that 700 of these were security prisoners.

Majority in Question as Knesset Sets 5 Oct Vote

TA2809104295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Knesset plenum will hold a special session to debate and vote on the Oslo agreement next Thursday [5 October], despite the opposition's objections to bringing the agreement to the Knesset's approval only after it is signed in Washington.

The Knesset's House Committee convened yesterday at the demand of Likud MK Limor Livnat to debate Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss's decision to convene the Knesset to vote on the Oslo agreement only next Thursday.

Weiss, who as Knesset Speaker has the sole authority to decide on when to convene the Knesset's recess sessions, without the approval of the House Committee or Knesset Presidium, rejected the opposition's demands to hold the Knesset debate on the accord yesterday.

Weiss explained that approving agreements in the Knesset after they are signed "is the constitutional custom since the establishment of the state. I have no authority or desire to coerce the government into bringing the agreement to the Knesset before it is signed because it would be in complete violation of the firm constitutional tradition formulated until today, regardless of which party is in power."

Knesset House Committee Chairman Hagai Merom, who supports the Oslo 2 agreement, nonetheless called on the cabinet to refrain from implementing it and especially from releasing any Palestinian prisoners before the Knesset's approval.

Both coalition and opposition have declared a general mobilization of all their members for the crucial vote, calling off all trips abroad and summoning all MKs out of the country to return.

Labor leaders are counting on a majority of 61, after deducting MK Emanuel Zissman, who already announced that he would vote against the agreement, and MK Avigdor Kahalani, who said he is still deliberating about how to vote.

However, it is not at all clear whether the coalition will be able to muster this majority, mainly due to the indecisive stand taken by Yi'ud MKs Alex Goldfarb and Gonen Segev. Goldfarb is expected once again to delay his decision until the very last moment, as he did last time.

Peres Leaves for Signing Ceremony, Comments

TA2809060695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Sep 95

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Netan'el Semrik "during a stopover at the Amsterdam international airport" on 28 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Semrik] Good day from the international airport in Amsterdam, on the eve of the signing ceremony of the Oslo B Agreement in Washington. In the course of an informal briefing for media correspondents at around midnight, the foreign minister leaned back against his chair and told us that he was still not completely sure that there would not be any last- minute hitches of the kind we have already become accustomed to at previous ceremonies.

[Peres] It is said of the Irish that they never resolve a problem without creating a new one.

[Semrik] What about the Palestinians?

[Peres] Same thing.

[Semrik] Peres said that a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation is definitely a realistic option. He based his assessment on talks he has held recently with both Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as well as with Jordan's King Husayn.

[Peres] King Husayn says this is a possibility that both he and 'Arafat always take into account. I discussed this issue with both men. They take this possibility into consideration. I do not think they have found a magic formula of how to live together; however, both of them understand that this is the preferred option.

[Semrik] The foreign minister told the assembled media correspondents, who were hanging on his every word, that he was fully at peace with himself, with his political path, and with the agreement that has been reached. Commenting on the possible release of female Palestinian prisoners, including some who have murdered Israelis, Peres condensed his guiding principle in the negotiations with the Palestinians into one sentence.

[Peres] The question is whether or not we can draw a line under the past at some point or not? This is the major question. Most of the people we are sitting with today issued orders for terrorists to carry out attacks or even perpetrated such attacks themselves. I look around me at all these people and imagine...[pauses] You know, in the beginning, before we started the negotiations, I had a hard time viewing terrorists as human beings. Today, it is difficult for me to view the human beings I am sitting down with as former terrorists. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 28 September carries a similar report on the same impromptu interview with Foreign Minister Peres. In the Qol Yisra'el report, Peres notes that "there were still differences between the Palestinians and Israel with regard to the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the West Bank cities, and this matter still had to be discussed in order to permit the holding of elections in the territories. Minister Peres added that Israel was prepared to increase the size of the territory handed over to the Palestinians in the Jericho area."]

Rabin Comments on Agreement Before Leaving for U.S.

TA2709185195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Sep 95

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Dan Scemama at Ben-Gurion Airport — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Scemama] Mr. Prime Minister, you are on your way to Washington to sign an agreement the importance of which is perhaps the partition of Eretz Yisra'el. How do you feel about this agreement?

[Rabin] This government has decided to proceed on the path in which it has believed and which it has undertaken to implement during the 1992 elections, namely, to bring about a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict within the framework of peace with the neighboring Arab countries. We are on the right path; we know where we are going. We have set for ourselves the objective of achieving a separation between Israel and the Palestinians who live in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We want to have a Jewish rather than a binational state, living in peaceful coexistence alongside a Palestinian entity which will be less than a state and which will not coincide with the 1967 line. The present move was completed on the way to achieving this objective.

[Scemama] Mr. Rabin, a minister who has been close to you recently — Yosi Sarid — this evening said that anyone who can see clearly realizes that this is the beginning of a Palestinian state. Do you subscribe to the same view?

[Rabin] No. I heard what he had said. He claimed that he has been saying the same thing for the last 25 years. Let us see what happens 25 years from today. Maybe we will have to wait not only 25 years, but 50 years or perhaps even more than this.

[Scemama] Mr. Prime Minister, one last question before you depart for Washington. Are you at peace with yourself with the fact that while you are in Washington both male and female prisoners with Jewish blood on their hands will be released?

[Rabin] First, prisoners who have murdered or severely wounded Israelis will not be released, except for female prisoners regarding which we had a special request at the time. I do not want to elaborate on this point.

We are in a process of reconciliation with the Palestinian people. This process involves the release of prisoners who have not shed Israeli blood, namely, who have not murdered or seriously harmed Israelis.

[Scemama] Does this apply to the female prisoners?

[Rabin] We had a special appeal on the female prisoners, but I do not want to elaborate on this issue.

[Scemama] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much and good luck.

[Rabin] Thank you.

Rabin Views Relations With Palestinians

AU2809133395 Vienna NEWS in German 28 Sep 95 p 54

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by unidentified "newspaper and television journalists"; place and date not given: "Another 30 Years of Terrorism?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] How do you see the long-term relations with the Palestinians?

[Rabin] In a new era of coexistence with our neighboring countries, we will hopefully be able to reduce the effects of the long and bitter conflict between the Arab states in 10 to 30 years. The conflict with the Palestinians is the most complicated one. It will take longest with them.

[Correspondent] Nationalists in Israel are criticizing that the peace agreement opens the door to the fundamentalists' terrorism.

[Rabin] The Palestinians must show determination. Some of the most recent tragic suicide attacks were carried out by Palestinians from the West Bank, even though they were conceived in Damascus or Gaza.

[Correspondent] Do you think that an independent Palestinian state is realistic?

[Rabin] The question is: How far can the Palestinians cope with their civilian problems? And: Are they able to prevent further terrorism? I doubt that effective cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians in combating terrorism will be possible.

[Correspondent] Will the withdrawal from the West Bank weaken the opportunities to combat terrorism?

[Rabin] Undoubtedly. Our internal information network will be weakened by it. On the other hand, the separation of Israelis and Palestinians might reduce the tensions.

[Correspondent] Is the peace process irreversible?

[Rabin] We are past the point of no-return: Nevertheless, we continue to be suspicious. Therefore, we must maintain a strong military power, a strong information network, and a strong police.

Rabin, Peres Discuss Prisoner Release Issue

TA2809121395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 28 Sep 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] One of the issues that American Jews will raise in their meetings with Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres will be the release of Palestinian prisoners. The prime minister addressed this issue during the long flight from Israel to Washington.

[Begin Rabin recording] Naturally, there is a great degree of uneasiness here, as was the case during past wars. After each war, we released Egyptian, Jordanian, and Syrian POW's who killed Israelis. This is provided that we reach the conclusion that a chapter has ended, the terror chapter has ended. As long as 'Arafat's PLO does not perpetrate terror, as long as it fights the radical Islamic elements, even in a limited way, and goes with us toward a political resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we should know that one chapter has ended and another is beginning. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 28 September carries a recorded report by Netan'el Semrik who quotes Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres as saying during the flight that "what happened is not that Israel changed its attitude toward the prisoners, but that the prisoners changed their attitude toward Israel. This had been a terrorist organization before, and this is the reason why those imprisoned engaged in terror. Their movement, their leadership, and they themselves have now said that terror is over."]

Ministers Meet With Weizman on Prisoner Issue

TA2709160295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller reports that the meeting between President 'Ezer Weizman, the attorney general, and the members of the Ministerial Committee on Prisoners Release has [passage indistinct] them security prisoners and 600 criminals. Ministers Shahal and Sarid told our correspondent that this release does not refer to prisoners whose hands are tainted with Jewish blood. Tomorrow the president will be given a list of female prisoners from East Jerusalem whom the government wants to release. President Weizman will review each case separately.

Following the cabinet session, Minister Yosi Sarid said that anyone who can see clearly understands that the endorsement of the Oslo B agreement means that sooner or later a Palestinian state will be established. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Ministers Shohat and Ben-Eli'ezer said that this agreement means an end to the Greater Israel dream. Minister Moshe Shahal said that as far as Hebron is concerned, he would have preferred a solution wherein the Israel Police would have been in charge of the settlers' security, but that he believes that eventually a controlled separation process will be created in which Israel will maintain efficient supervision of Palestinians entering the area under its control.

Netanyahu Criticizes Prisoner Release Agreement

TA2709175995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu today held a meeting with President Weizman on the release of female security prisoners. After the meeting Netanyahu said he is convinced that eventually Israel will release all the prisoners. Netanyahu said that those who had attempted but failed to murder people are already being released. This government wants peace at all costs and will indeed pay any price for achieving it. Netanyahu added that unfortunately there will be no peace.

Labor Party Chief Fearful of Accord Consequences

LD2809111695 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0600 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Government and the Palestinian authority will sign the agreement on the extension of autonomy in the West Bank in Washington today. Once again, this is a U.S.-brokered peace, as it were.

The signing will take place with Bill Clinton in attendance. Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yithzaq Rabin, King Husayn of Jordan, and Egyptian President Mubarak will also be present.

The agreement puts an end to more than 20 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

Having said that, all the problems have not been settled. Far from it. The secretary-general of the Israeli Labor Party, Nisim Zvili, spoke to Pierre Weill:

[Begin Zvili recording] There is a risk. In my opinion, a percentage of the settlers are far-right extremists, fanatics who will never be prepared to comply with orders voted by a Knesset majority and this may lead to a small-scale civil war. I hope it will not be worse than that, but in any case we are going to face a very delicate situation where some settlers will try to take force in their hands and decide what the future will be, that is, fighting against the Palestinian police for instance. This could lead to extremely dangerous incidents which may develop into incredible things, but we won't because the aspect... [pauses] one of the most important aspects, or one of the most important values in Israel is democracy and I do not think that we can afford to let a minority among the people fight legal decisions made by the Israeli state. [end recording]

Resident Arab Officials React to Taba Agreement

TA2709154195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Sep 95 p A6

[Report by Yosef Algazi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The leaders of the Arab organizations and councils have welcomed the interim agreement reached between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. "The Arab citizens welcome the agreement and hope it will be implemented in full as soon as possible," declared Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, chairman of the Supreme Arab Follow-Up Committee in Israel and mayor of Shefar'am. Husayn expressed confidence that the Israeli Government and the PLO — who enjoy, he said, the support of the majority — would overcome the difficulties and dangers on the way to implementing the peace process.

Mahmud Sarsur, spokesman for the Islamic Movement and chairman of the Kafr Qasim Local Council, announced that his movement has welcomed this step, which promotes peace and the realization of the rights of the Palestinian people. "We consider the Taba agreement a milestone on the way to the peace we desire, and we wish Rabin and his colleagues victory in the next elections so they can complete the peace process," Sarsur said.

Likud Central Committee member Sulayman Diyab from Kafr Tamra said: "I will do my best to convince my colleagues in the Likud, headed by Knesset Member [MK] As'ad As'ad, to support the agreement."

HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] MK Salah Salim expressed qualified support for the agreement very much as the other spokesmen for his party had done. Salim said that "the positive side of the agreement outweighs its negative aspects, but had we been in 'Arafat's place, we would have exerted more pressure on Rabin with regard to the eviction of the settlers from Hebron and the release of thousands of prisoners. The families and clans of those prisoners who will not be released will not participate in the elections for the Palestinian Council, or else they will vote against 'Arafat and for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The release of prisoners is in Israel's interest," MK Salim stressed.

MK 'Abd-al-Wahib Darawshah, chairman of the Arab Democratic Party, wished the parties success in implementing the agreement. "However," he added, "I have a deep fear that in the face of right- wing pressure, the Israeli Government will not keep all the commitments it has made in the agreement in accordance with the scheduled timetable."

Druze officials also expressed support for the agreement, with the exception of Likud MK As'ad As'ad who declared he would vote against it in the Knesset.

"I am very pleased that this agreement starts off the Jewish new year," said Labor MK Salah Tarif, deputy speaker of the Knesset. "The agreement will improve relations between Israel and the Palestinians and lift a heavy burden from the young Druze serving in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and protecting Israel's security. During the intifadah the Druze were in the thick of it." Tarif voiced the hope that MK As'ad would prefer the Druze voters who support the agreement to his personal advancement in the Likud primaries. [passage omitted]

Accord Said To Include 'Secret' Paper on Hebron

TA2709115595 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Alex Stomchin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ge'ula Kohen, public relations coordinator for the Qiryat Arba' Local Council and the Jewish community in Hebron, claims to possess a secret document that is part of the Taba agreement and in which the government promises to evict the Jewish settlers from Hebron if it can be proved that they initiate provocations against the local populace.

Kohen asserted that this document proves the government's intention to remove the Jewish settlers. "Besides constituting a blatant injustice, it also invites the Arabs to carry out a pogrom against the Jews in Hebron," Kohen says.

Kohen blamed the media for its excessive coverage of the activities of radical fringe groups like EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem], which encourages such activity. She accused the police of deliberately turning a blind eye and not taking steps against these groups.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah said in reaction that he is not aware of such a document. Al-Natshah said yesterday that he does not believe the Israeli Government made such a promise.

"If the Israeli Government sought to evacuate the settlers from Hebron, it would have done so after the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs. If it did not do so then, I do not believe any such step will be taken in the foreseeable future," al-Natshah added.

Kahana Hay Leader Promises 'Bloodshed'

TA2809102295 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Sep 95 p 5

[Report by Doron Me'iri and Tzvi Zinger]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yequti'el Ben-Ya'aqov (Mike Gozovsky), one of the leaders of the Kahana Hay [Kahana Lives] movement, said yesterday: "I returned from the United States with the aim of unifying our ranks against the Arab murderers. I declare that from now on, the machine gun, dynamite, and the revolver will do the talking. There is no doubt that more Goldsteins [reference to Barukh Goldstein, who committed the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs in February 1994] will emerge in the near future, and we expect a great deal of bloodshed."

Ben-Ya'aqov, 31, was the leader of the ultra-right movement in New York and recently returned to Israel. He set up residence in the Samaria settlement of Tapu'ah, considered the bastion of the Kahana Hay movement. Ben-Ya'aqov clarified yesterday that he intended to establish an independent military body in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip "in order to defend the settlers from the Arab rioters." [passage omitted]

Rabbi Beni Alon, one of the leaders of the Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land] movement, was interrogated for six hours yesterday by police detectives at the Criminal Investigations Department. The interrogators suspect Alon of engaging in incitement.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 28 September in a page A4 report by Nadav Shragay notes that "Opposition Knesset members, led by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu and a group of public officials and intellectuals associated with the right wing, will today sign 'an oath of allegiance and commitment to Eretz Yisra'el' at the Jerusalem International Convention Center."

[The report goes on to say that "the Bereshit [Genesis] group, a semi-clandestine coordinating body which has been operating among right-wing groups for the past six months, yesterday distributed a leaflet among the leaders of right-wing movements in Israel. The leaflet calls for active opposition to the Oslo Agreement as soon the agreement is passed by the Knesset, in the event that it is indeed endorsed.

["Bereshit says it is doubtful whether the agreement will be approved by the Knesset, in light of Minister Shim'on Shetrit's promise to his close associates that he would absent himself from the Knesset plenum during the vote, thus reversing the results."

[HA'ARETZ adds that the Bereshit leaflet posits the existence of an unpublished legal addendum to the Oslo B agreement, which contains an Israeli commitment to discuss bringing forward the talks on the permanent arrangement by six months, to start in December 1995.

[Bereshit also asserts that the Israeli Government has recognized the need to remove the Jewish settlers from Hebron, with discussions on this issue slated to begin no later than six months after the signing of the Oslo B agreement.

[Bereshit contends that "according to the agreement, two-thirds of the Palestinian prisoners will be released within 60 days of the signing of the Oslo B Agreement."]

Poll: Bare Majority of Public Backs Agreement

TA2809093895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Sep 95 p 1

["Public Opinion Poll conducted by Mina Tzemah's Dahaf Institute" — 51% of the Public Support the Interim Agreement, 47% Opposed]

[FBIS Translated Text] Do you support or oppose the Interim Agreement with the Palestinians about to be signed today in Washington?

Support: 51%

Oppose: 47%

Did not Reply: 2%

The survey, which was conducted on 27 September, comprised 504 respondents who constitute a representative sample of the adult Israeli population. Maximum sampling error — 4%

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 28 September in a page B2 article by Gadi Wolfsfeld entitled, "Distorted Picture," notes that "the noninclusion of Israeli Arabs in the public opinion polls routinely published by the media, despite the fact that this group makes up 17% of the country's population, creates a distorted picture."

[As an example, HA'ARETZ presents a poll which showed 55% of the public opposed to continuing peace talks with the Palestinians. Assuming that all Israeli Arabs support the negotiations, factoring their position into the survey would have led to sharply different results, with 54% of the public now seen supporting the talks.]

Closure Imposed on West Bank, Gaza Until 1 Oct

TA2709190795 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] At midnight tonight a closure will be imposed on Judaea and Samaria until 0400 [0200 GMT] next Sunday [1 October]. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen reports that the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip last week will also continue until next Sunday.

Our military affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David notes the decision was made in anticipation of attempted attacks by the rejectionist organizations in the wake of the agreement with the Palestinians.

Abu-Marzuq Extradition Request Cites New Evidence

TA2709124295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, the State Attorney's Office filed a new request for the detention and extradition of Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] political bureau, who was detained in New York about two months ago.

Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the request is based on new evidence according to which Abu-Marzuq is suspected of being responsible for assassinations, attempted assassinations, manslaughter, aggravated sabotage, and conspiracy to commit a criminal act. Abu-Marzuq is suspected of outlining a policy of terrorist attacks; issuing instructions to organization activists; and dispatching envoys to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; purchasing weapons; and forwarding hundreds of thousands of dollars over recent years.

Journalists, Businessmen Reportedly on Iraqi Payroll

JN2809084995 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 27 Sep 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian journalists witnessed a state of confusion last week following the publication of a report by the London-based AL-HAYAH by its Amman correspondent Salamah Ni'mat about the Iraqi penetration of the Jordanian press and trade sectors. The report spoke about a list of nearly 40 businessmen, writers, journalists, as well as former and current officials who are said to be receiving salaries and financial and commercial facilities from the Iraqi Government.

The report spoke about many fictitious companies registered in Jordan and operate for Iraqi officials, and said Iraqi circles try to recruit Jordanian writers and journalists and rally all forces loyal to the Iraqi regime through gifts and salaries with the aim of forging a public opinion that is opposed to the official Jordanian position.

It is known that the relationship between Jordanian journalists and Iraq is nothing new. Several years ago, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn donated about $1 million to a housing project for the journalists. In 1990, President Saddam offered as gifts 42 cars to the ministers of the government of Mudar Badran. Three of these cars were presented to well known poets.

To follow up the subject, AL-HADATH contacted Salamah Ni'mat and asked him about the reasons for withholding publication of the names included in that list. He replied:

[Ni'mat] We did not publish the names because we are not sure about the accuracy of the information, but we received governmental confirmation, and the official organs are currently investigating the issue and we will publish the listed names immediately after we verify the accuracy of the information.

[Abu-al-Khayr] Who are those accused of receiving money from Iraq?

[Ni'mat] Many of those who deal with the Iraqi Government, including businessmen, officials, and journalists. I forgot to mention in the report published in AL-HAYAH that there are House of Representatives members involved in this subject, and that the 30 names of the list which includes 40 names had been proven to receive Iraqi money.

[Abu-al-Khayr] You spoke about governmental confirmation?

[Ni'mat] Yes, as I said I have official confirmation. The positions of many of these individuals toward Iraq are known, and the government knew that they used to receive financial support. Here, I do not mean cash money in particular because some writers received cars. This was something ordinary because relations between the two countries were good, there was an internal front loyal to Iraq, and there was no governmental fears from this situation. The problem is that the Iraqi penetration of the press remained as it was after the change in the government position toward Iraq. Now, there are concerns as a result of the continuation of the situation, and how to deal with it.

[Abu-al-Khayr] How did you get the names?

[Ni'mat] The government had prepared a list of the names of those who receive money from Iraq in cooperation with an Iraqi personality close to the Iraqi opposition. Moreover, General Husayn Kamil disclosed the names of those who he dealt with. These include companies, officials, and journalists.

[Abu-al-Khayr] Some say that this is nothing more than a rumor and that it is an initial step toward estrangement with Iraq?

[Ni'mat] It is absolutely untrue to say that this is a mere rumor. It is something that is very clear. Yes, there are people who are accused of receiving funds from Iraq. It could be that they do not receive cash money. It is no secret that the Iraqi Government used to polarize writers and journalists publicly during the second Gulf crisis. Then this became a secret practice after the government's adoption of a new position vis-a-vis Iraq. This polarization increased recently with the aim of luring all forces that support the Iraqi regime to confront the new Jordanian position.

In a telephone contact with Sulayman al-Qudah, president of the Journalists' Association, he said that the Association will not probe this issue since it has no information about it. He pointed out that the Association's Council does not shape its positions according to what is published, but rather on reality.

AL-HADATH contacted Saif al-Sharif, director general of the newspaper AL-DUSTUR, to ask whether the contract signed with the Iraqi Ministry of Education to print Iraqi schoolbooks will affect the newspaper's policy. He said that he has not received any funds from the Iraqi Government for two years, because AL-DUSTUR's commercial printing press has not signed a contract with the Iraqi Ministry of Education to print Iraqi school books for 1994-95 due to a disagreement on the prices. He said that AL-DUSTUR did not make an offer.

Al-Sharif said that there has never been any relationship between the work of the commercial printing press and the newspaper's policy.

Asked about the reason for his speedy response to Ni'mat's report in his daily column in AL-RA'Y, writer Tariq Masarwah said: It could be because I read that issue of AL-HAYAH early Thursday, the day of its arrival. He said he expressed his opinion about the issue in his article headlined: "AL-HAYAH, Recipients of Money, and the Court." In that article he said: We will go to court as of today, and we will ask AL-HAYAH to provide us with the names of the 42 Jordanian writers and journalists who, the paper claims, receive funds from the Iraqi authorities ranging from U.S. $500 to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In a statement to the JORDAN TIMES on 17 September, Masarwah said that 12 lawyers had volunteered to bring a suit against AL-HAYAH.

Press sources have more than once quoted a senior government official as saying that he had information about journalists and writers who received funds from Iraq. Asked about the reason for the government's silence about the issue, he said that it is hard to prove this legally.

Will this case reach the courts?

Al-Kabariti Denies Amman Summit Harms Syria

NC2809070695 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 25 Sep 95 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti has denied that the Amman Economic Summit will harm Syria and Lebanon and abolish the Arab boycott of Israel.

In a statement to ROSE AL-YUSUF, he reaffirmed that Jordan will continue to support the Arab parties still negotiating with Israel until they liberate all their territories. He said comprehensive peace cannot be achieved as long as Israel occupies one inch of Arab territory.

Al-Kabariti said the Amman Economic Summit will attempt to translate the peace achievements made so far into a tangible reality that can benefit the people of the region.

Al-Kabari said: Syria has agreed to attend the Barcelona Conference, which is responsible for political, security, economic, and social issues and which is more important and effectual than the Amman Summit. Syria should have refused to attend the Barcelona Conference because Israel will be a main party to the conference.

King Confers With U.S. Defense Secretary

JN2809064595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn said it is hoped that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will lend fresh momentum to the Middle East peace process. His Majesty King Husayn was speaking yesterday with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry during a visit to the U.S. Defense Department.

Asked whether the agreement to be signed today would give major momentum to the Middle East peace process, His Majesty King Husayn said: I believe that the agreement will give a boost to the peace process and will make us feel that peace will continue until we attain a comprehensive peace in the region. It reflects great courage and commitment by the two parties, who spent long hours in negotiations to overcome problems.

Asked whether he expects Syria and Israel will engage in a political solution, his majesty said: I really do not know when this will happen. I hope it will happen at a certain point.

Regarding the United States' fulfillment of Jordan's security requirements, his majesty said: This is part of the relations over the years between us and the United States. I believe we will discuss all issues related to bilateral cooperation. We seek a better future for our region and the world.

On the defection to Jordan of Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his companions, his majesty said: They sought refuge in Jordan. They will remain in Jordan in the foreseeable future. They will not go anywhere else. I met with the whole family. I think they all have a unified position.

Responding to a question on the types of weapons Jordan demanded, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said: Jordan has legitimate demands from the United States. The United States is not only willing but also seeks to work with Jordan in the field of joint defense cooperation and meet its requirements.

His Majesty King Husayn held a session of talks with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir; Marwan al- Qasim, chief of the Hashemite Royal Court; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, military secretary of his majesty the king; Jordanian Ambassador in Washington Fayiz al-Tarawinah; and the military attache at the Jordanian embassy in Washington.

On the U.S. side the meeting was attended by senior U.S. Defense Department officials.

Further on King's Talks With Perry

JN2809091095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn, may God protect him, met with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry at the U.S. Defense Department today. They held a closed meeting that was followed by an expanded meeting attended by a number of senior officials from both sides.

Talks dealt with the requirements of the Jordanian Armed Forces and the means of modernizing them and providing them with modern weapons that would allow them to undertake their basic role of maintaining security and stability in the region.

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said that the United States understands the Jordanian Armed Forces' needs for modern weapons. He said that some of these needs are under consideration at the U.S. Congress. He added that the U.S. Administration will ensure the fulfillment of these requirements.

It was agreed to conduct a comprehensive review of the Jordanian Armed Forces' requirements through a high-level meeting between military officials from both sides.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Hashemite Royal Court; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, military secretary of his majesty the king; the Jordanian ambassador in Washington; and the military attache in the Jordanian Embassy in Washington. On the U.S. side, the meeting was attended by senior U.S. Defense Department officials.

Prince, Deputy Prime Minister Receive U.S. Commander

JN2709142895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has received Commander of the U.S. Central Command Lieutenant General Binford and the accompanying delegation.

During the audience attended by the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the regent discussed with the U.S. official bilateral military cooperation. The talks focused on possible U.S. military training assistance to the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah received the U.S. lieutenant general and his team. During the meeting, Mr. al-Rawabidah reviewed with the U.S. official the situation in the region and bilateral relations.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Head Meets Peay

JN2709162395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, received in his office at the General Command today General J.H. Binford Peay III, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command.

During the meeting, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff reviewed the situation in the region as well as its strategic importance, aspects of cooperation and coordination, and issues of common interest. The commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command arrived in Amman yesterday.

Buwayz on UN General Assembly, Amman Summit

NC2709144595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Sep 95

[Remarks by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to unidentified NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Beirut on 27 September—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Minister Buwayz: You are leaving today for New York at the head of Lebanon's delegation to the UN General Assembly [UNGA] session. What files are you carrying with you to these meetings?

[Buwayz] Naturally the file on the south, regarding both Israel's occupation of the land and the Lebanese detainees, will be the main issue in the speech that I deliver on behalf of the Lebanese Government. Add to this the situation in the region as far as the peace process is concerned. The recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement is undoubtedly no better than the earlier Oslo Agreement. In other words, it is not clear enough about the future of the Palestinian state as an entity and about the Palestinian refugees, who represent more than three-fourths of the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] What impact will the Amman economic summit, scheduled to be held at the end of next month, have on the Lebanese and Syrian positions?

[Buwayz] The Amman summit is a link in the chain of normalization. Just as Lebanon has refused to participate in any of the multilateral talks as long as there is no fundamental progress in the bilateral negotiations and the Arabs do not enjoy their full rights, so it was natural for us to refuse to participate in this summit.

[Correspondent] My last question, Mr. Minister: What do you think is the best way to use your participation in the UNGA session to promote the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425?

[Buwayz] Lebanon's participation in the UNGA session is a matter of principle and is necessary. Lebanon's absence would be harmful and would not serve Lebanon's interests. In addition, the session gives us an opportunity to hold several meetings. For instance, we will attend a meeting organized by the Arab League in New York. The nonaligned countries will also hold a meeting in New York. The Francophone states will meet too. Meetings are also scheduled to be held between the Arab states and European and Latin American states. All these meetings are necessary to keep the Lebanese cause moving to a certain degree.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Christopher, Baker Cited on Peace Process

JN2709192095 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher today announced that he was expected to leave for the Middle East during the next two or three weeks in a bid to achieve progress in the peace process. In an interview with the television network MBC, Christopher stressed that the United States was determined more than ever to continue its efforts to advance the peace process on the Syrian track.

For his part, former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has urged the U.S. Administration to take a stronger and more serious position to advance Middle East peace negotiations, especially on the Syrian track. He said that agreement with Syria would be missed if there is no strong and serious U.S. leadership. In an interview with REUTER, Baker said: I believe it is necessary to reach an agreement on the Syrian track, but I do not believe that this can be achieved if the United States does not adopt a firm diplomacy by proposing options and making efforts to overcome the current crisis on the security issue. He also said: I do not believe that we have much time or that an agreement can be reached if the U.S. Administration is not determined enough.

Baker believes that if no agreement is reached on the Syrian track concentrating on the return of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, which Israel occupied in 1967, the agreements between Israel and the limited self-rule and between Israel and Jordan will be practically dissolved. He said that in his testimony before Congress he expressed disappointment over Israel's refusal to show flexibility toward peace efforts. He said he told Israel in public: When you are serious about peace, contact us at the White House. It is well known that Baker made this statement during former President Bush's term in office.

Al-Shar' on Negotiations, Israel, Lebanese Track

JN2709203495 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' denied that during last week's meetings of the Arab League Council, his country objected to the proposed two drafts on the Arab court of justice and the Arab code of honor and cooperation. In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, al-Shar' said that resuming Syrian-Israeli talks depends on Israel's response to Syrian demands. He also said that if implemented, the Egyptian-proposed draft on the Arab code of honor will certainly enhance and protect joint Arab action and, therefore, deserves every appreciation. He clarified that Syria has called for conducting further studies on the issue to overcome any future loopholes and to ensure its implementation on the ground.

Al-Shar' stressed the need to present the draft to the first Arab summit to be approved by the Arab kings and heads of state.

Al-Shar' said that the Arab League Council members held numerous meetings on the sidelines of the League's session out of their eagerness to make progress toward strengthening Arab solidarity.

Al-Shar' asserted that Syria has not yet set a date for the resumption of negotiations with Israel in Washington because it has not received positive offers regarding the demands it made during the last round of talks and during contacts and consultations with U.S. officials over the past two months.

Al-Shar' also said that Syria will not accept any preconditions from Israel, which should return Arab rights in the Golan and southern Lebanon if it wants to achieve true peace in the region, as Israelis say, in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. He then stressed that Israel's policy of procrastination is rejected.

The Syrian foreign minister pointed out that he will meet with his U.S. counterpart, Warren Christopher, on the sidelines of the meetings of the UN General Assembly to discuss the negotiations and agree on a date for their resumption if solutions and ideas that will be reached are in harmony with Syria's views. Al-Shar' denied any Syrian intention to hold a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres or any Israeli official. He also said that Syria does not think such a meeting has any use before Syria's demands, including a just peace and the return of its rights, are met.

Al-Shar' reiterated Syria's call for revitalizing the Lebanese track in parallel with the Syrian track during negotiations with Israel, pointing out that both tracks are moving side by side. He asserted that Syria will not accept any separate agreement on any of these two tracks "like the agreements that some Arab parties have signed in violation of Arab coordination meetings and agreements before and after the Madrid conference."

Al-Shar' reiterated that his country refuses to take part in the upcoming Amman economic summit meeting, which is part of the multilateral meetings that Syria is boycotting. Syria, however, will take part in the Barcelona meeting on Mediterranean cooperation.

Al-Shar': Amman Summit Weakens Country's Stance

NC2809065995 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 25 Sep 95 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has warned that Arab countries will face dangers if Israel succeeds in concluding regional cooperation agreements with Arab parties that will attend the Amman Economic Summit in the Jordanian capital at the end of October.

In a statement to ROSE AL-YUSUF, al-Shar' said the Amman Summit will greatly harm the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, especially in view of Israel's intransigence and its nonresponsiveness to the logic of peace, which requires it to abandon its expansionist ambitions in the Arab region. Israel has so far refused to withdraw without conditions from all Arab territories occupied in 1967.

Al-Shar' said: Economic cooperation between Israel and any Arab country weakens Syria's stance in the ongoing negotiations with Israel; it even helps Israel to continue its occupation of Arab territory and strengthens its position before the world community.

Press Views Faults in Taba Agreement

JN2709172295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 26 Sep 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial, AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that Syria adheres to its national and pan-Arab rights that are based on resolutions of international legitimacy.

It says: Under no circumstances can Syria cede an iota of its sand or a single right of its national and pan-Arab rights. Peace must be just, comprehensive, and must meet the conditions of international resolutions, or it should not exist at all. We in Syria do not accept anything less than implementing these resolutions.

When Syria called for a comprehensive and just peace, it did so because this is the only way the region can realize the peace to which it aspires. The separate agreements, as all testify and as the facts show, failed to end conflict in the region and failed to make peace. On the contrary, the opposite of peace has been realized. This calls on those responsible for the peace process to drop these distorted agreements and return to the bases of peace and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

In another comment, AL-THAWRAH emphasizes the infertility of the Taba agreement that was initialed between the Palestinian limited self-rule authority and Israel.

It says: The latest Taba partial agreement between Israel and the self-rule authority — and in spite of the media clamor that accompanied it — remained an infertile and useless agreement and cannot be the base of any peace in the region. This is because this agreement conflicts with the objectives and bases of the peace process that had been defined at the Madrid conference and because it aborted the Palestinians' aspirations and did not secure for them the minimum of their legitimate demands and hopes of freedom, independence, and termination of the ugly occupation for good. This agreement left several difficult problems without a solution, and did not provide anything new that may end the suffering and torture of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. This agreement divided the West Bank and entrenched the irrevocable occupation of most of its land, and allowed Israel to keep all the settlements there.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Just and comprehensive peace that is accompanied by full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories is the only peace that can last and continue, and is the only peace that can ensure the security, dignity, and interests of all parties. The absence of this peace and replacing it by partial solutions will only lead to more tension and escalation and will keep the situation open to various possibilities.

In its editorial, AL-BA'TH speaks about Israel's responsibility for obstructing peace. It says: The only party responsible for difficulty and complication on the Syrian track is Israel which tried through all its capabilities to empty the peace process of its contents and essence and to change it into separate, partial, and incomplete deals that have nothing to do with peace at all. Furthermore, these deals, with their ambiguity, injustice, and full bias for Israel's interests at the expense of Arab interests and rights, constitute time bombs that bear additional hazards to the region and threaten creating a more explosive situation, chaos, and aggression in the Middle East.

AL-BA'TH adds: Undoubtedly, Rabin and his government found easy the caricature-like negotiations that took place on the Palestinian track and that regrettably led to substantial concessions by the Palestinian negotiators who bowed to the Israeli conditions and dictates, relinquished the rights and interests of the Palestinian people, and signed a new capitulative agreement that wiped out what remains of the Palestine question.

After speaking about the sincere, constructive, and positive efforts Syria made to render the peace process successful, AL-BA'TH concludes: Rabin is gravely mistaken if he believes that he can implement the self-rule model and negotiations on the Syrian track. The relinquishment or capitulation of one or more Arab party only concern this party. In spite of the seriousness of this relinquishment and capitulation, it will not affect the solidity and firmness of the Syrian position which represents the hopes and aspirations of the Arab masses to reach a just and comprehensive peace — a peace of dignity and self-respect.

The newspaper TISHRIN discusses Israel's isolation of the Palestinian party after the latter deviated from the Arab fold. It stresses that peace in the region is still very distant.

The newspaper says: Certainly, Israel would not have isolated the Palestinian party in such a manner and imposed on it the terms of a disgraceful and humiliating settlement without the deviation of the Palestinian side from Arab coordination and its involvement in secret and partial negotiations that led to the Oslo agreement, and then the latest agreement in Taba. The Taba agreement kept the West Bank under the direct control of Israel, represented in the occupation forces and tens of thousands of Zionist settlers.

There is no better evidence of Israel's recklessness toward the Palestinian people's rights and the Security Council resolutions that support these rights than its insistence on partaking Hebron's neighborhoods. Some of these neighborhoods are directly under the control of the Israeli army under the pretext of protecting 400 Jewish settlers who live amid 120,000 Arab citizens. As for Jerusalem, Israel deliberately kept it out of negotiations and escalated judaizastion activities to change its demographic structure.

TISHRIN refers to the continuous confrontations in the West Bank cities and towns, and stresses that peace in the region is still very distant. It adds that the distorted and partial agreements did not realize peace in the past, and will not realize it now or in the future.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Since the very beginning, Syria called on the Arab parties to adhere to the bases of just peace and Security Council resolutions and to continue coordination among these parties. Had all parties been committed to what had been agreed upon, the gains would have been much better, and Israel would have been cornered. Abandoning coordination, bases, and resolutions led to a plunge in Israel's swamp and submission to its dictates in the manner we sense in the Taba agreement now.

Paper Urges UN To Adhere to Its Own Resolutions

JN2809111295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 27 Sep 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "The 50th UN Session" TISHRIN refers to the beginning of the 50th UN General Assembly session in New York. More than 100 foreign ministers will deliver speeches to explain their countries' positions on current world developments and on how to deal with conflicts and the UN role in achieving international security and peace.

TISHRIN says: As in previous sessions, this one will adjourn without results on the ground or in international relations. The reason for this is that certain big powers consider it their role to be a substitute for the role of the international organization. It is thus natural that the United Nations in its present condition is unable to play the role the way peoples and countries in need of this role would like it to be.

TISHRIN emphasizes that in order for the United Nations to play its full role as stipulated in the charter of this international organization, there must be radical reforms in the UN structure. It must be empowered to renew and reactivate itself.

What concerns us in this field and in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process is that the United Nations should adhere to the resolutions it has adopted so it can realize a just and comprehensive peace. It must not abandon its role in implementing these resolutions, because they represent the will of the entire international community as the means to end injustice, eliminate occupation, and pave the way for the region to enter the stage of stability, security, and peace.

For this organization to serve people, justice, and legitimacy, it should take into consideration the new economic powers and the developing countries that constitute—on the basis of their positions, aspirations, and requirements—more than two-thirds of the globe.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: All this imposes more responsibilities on the United Nations. It must activate its role in the interest of the peoples and their just causes.

Afghanistan

Kabul Offers 'Peace Talks' With Taleban, Factions

BK2709154595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1525 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Sept 27 (AFP) — Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's government Wednesday [27 September] offered to hold direct peace talks with all rival factions, including the Taleban and northern Uzbek general Abdul Rashid Dostam's group.

Presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad, making the offer at a news conference here, particularly noted that there was "no obstacle to direct talks with Dostam."

Morad said he had not recently made a trip to see Dostam or his representatives, but "we have this intention" in the future.

Dostam, who unsuccessfully tried to overthrow Rabbani in January 1994, is a major force in northern Afghanistan and a potential military threat to Kabul.

"If the opposition understands that fighting is not the right solution, the State is ready to consider their demands," Morad said.

Sources here said Morad was to have visited representatives of Dostam's Junbish-i-Milli (National Islamic Movement) in Tashkent last week but the trip was postponed for unexplained reasons.

A deal with Dostam would ease the military threat to Kabul from the north, allowing Rabbani's strongman Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to concentrate his forces in the south and west of Kabul, where they face the Taleban Islamic movement.

The Taleban have vowed to take Kabul by force unless Rabbani and Mas'ud hand over power and quit Kabul peacefully.

"The Taleban who are fighting for foreigners are a bitter reality," said Morad, echoing accusations by Kabul that Pakistan is supporting Taleban. Islamabad has denied the charges.

"We are prepared to have talks with them (Taleban) in order to persuade them to give up their dependence on foreigners," Morad said.

Regarding the visit by United Nations Peace Envoy Mahmoud Mestiri to Kabul last week, Murad said the transfer of power by Rabbani was not an issue.

He quoted Mestiri as saying he was not endeavouring to seek a transfer of power this time but would make efforts to prevent further fighting.

Spokeman Issues Government Offer

LD2709224395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 27 Sep 95

[News conference by presidential spokesman 'Aziz Morad with foreign and domestic correspondents in Kabul on 27 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Morad] [passage omitted] First of all I welcome you to this conference and I would like to talk to you about the recent development and events in the country. [passage omitted]

Despite the fact that Herat and other provinces in the southwest of the country are under occupation, the Islamic State of Afghanistan is completely ready to defend Kabul and to repulse any kind of aggression and interference. We can resolutely say that the recent conspiracies will also fail in the same manner as the previous ones. [passage omitted]

I can confidently say that the Islamic army is capable of aborting any conspiracy against Kabul and of defending it. If a battle takes place in the future, it will not be in Kabul but in the periphery of the city. Dear journalists the experience of recent years has shown that fighting will not produce a result or a final winner. We ask all government opponents to give up the idea of fighting and enter talks and understanding. [Words indistinct] Thank you for listening. Now I am here to answer your questions.

[Unidentified correspondent] From your remarks I understood that the government is ready to hold talks with the opposition forces to protect the national interests of Afghanistan. In this connection I would like to ask you to shed some light on your rumored visits to the north of the country and to Uzbekistan. Have you held talks with a representative of Dostam?

[Morad] I have travelled recently but not to meet a Dostam representative. I have not been to Uzbekistan too.

[Correspondent] Do you have the intention of going there and to hold talks with a Dostam representative?

[Morad] We are of this view. As I said before, the government is ready to hold talks with the National Movement or with Dostam personally. The government wants to settle the differences with its opponents through negotiations, and Dostam is one of them. Because Dostam is controlling some provinces and he has been involved in fighting during the past three years, so there is a wish for talks to be held with him to resolve the problems.

[IRNA correspondent, in Persian] You said that you were ready to talk. I would like you to answer three questions in this respect. My first question is wether you are ready to hold direct talks with Dostam.

[Morad] The government is ready to hold talks with all the opponents in order to resolve the country's problems. The talks can be direct or indirect. the government has no problem with this.

[IRNA correspondent] If the talks end successfully, what share do you envisage for Dostam?

[Morad] This will depend on the talks that will be held with Dostam and other opposition groups. During the talks this will be discussed and also the opponents demands will be seen and then in the light of their demands a decision will be made in this connection.

[IRNA correspondent] Mr. Hekmatyar is one of the opponents and has been involved in the events. Are you ready to hold talks with him too? Hekmatyar insists that the talks be held with the High Coordination Council.

[Morad] So far as we know they are ready to hold talks outside the council too. They were in contact with us in the past as well. I do not think there will be any problem in holding talks with the opposition individually or collectively.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Morad] Definitely, we are ready to hold talks to resolve the Afghan problem. Now it depends on the opposition to what extend it takes into consideration the interests of Afghanistan — and gives up fighting and comes to talks.

[Faryad] Mohammad Hoseyn Faryad from the SHAHED newspaper of the Unity Party: It is said that Hekmatyar has called for the formation of a united front by the jihadi organizations against the Taleban. How far is this true?

[Morad] We have also heard this but we have not received a formal proposal from Hekmatyar.

[Correspondent] On behalf of the government you have announced its readiness to hold talks with all groups. Is the government prepared to hold direct talks with the Taleban as well?

[Morad] The hireling group of Taleban, which is working for the interests of the aliens and which is in the service of the foreigners, is a bitter reality. We are ready to hold talks with them in order to draw their attention to consequences of their links with the foreigners. [Words indistinct] and to abandon the fratricide and to take into account the interests of Afghanistan and its people. Just for this purpose. Surely this group is not free. They are serving the aliens and have caused chaos in the country at the instigation of the foreigners. [passage omitted]

['Abdollah] 'Abdollah from Associated Press: You have said that the government is ready to hold talks with the opposition groups. The opposition groups want the resignation of Ustad [Professor] Rabbani. Is Ustad Rabbani ready to resign?

[Morad] In my opinion it is not logical for the government to resign on behalf of the opposition. That is to say to hand over power to a body that is fighting against the state. However, the government is ready, as it has stated many times, for a shura [council] or an administration that can represent the will of the people, to be set up, and the government can hand over power to this body. This shura can decide who can lead the state of Afghanistan.

[Correspondent] [name indistinct] from KABUL TIMES. Last night we heard an interview with General Azemi [with the BBC]. The interviewer asked General Azemi: You have said that the Taleban has appointed [in government posts] Khalqi [communist faction] Pashtuns, but General Azemi had never raised the issue of Pashtun. We see that the international media propaganda is mostly following a special line alleging that the issue of Pashtun and Tajik or [word indistinct] are the cause of problem. Do you not think that there is an international conspiracy for the disintegration of Afghanistan?

[Morad] I have the opinion that Afghanistan is an indivisible country. The people of Afghanistan are brave and courageous and they have kept their national unity during the history. The people have always given a resolute reply to any foreign conspiracy. If there is a foreign conspiracy, I am fully confident that this conspiracy will be foiled by the bravery of the people of Afghanistan. The fighting in Afghanistan for the past three years — none of the fighting was tribal fighting or fighting between various religious factions. The fighting was between those who were in favor of an independent, free, and powerful Afghanistan, and those who wanted Afghanistan to be a satellite of a foreign country. [Words indistinct] The Taleban group who sometimes refer to this [language or race] — the first fight they have unleashed was against a nationality of their own. You have witnessed that the Taleban have massacred some 200 Kandahari people. [Words indistinct] They killed POWs against the international Islamic principles. [passage omitted]

The people of Afghanistan fully believe that such subjects [language, race, religion] are not the issue; and if there is a foreign conspiracy, this conspiracy will be foiled.

[Correspondent] I have two questions. First, how do you assess the future relations between Afghanistan and

Pakistan? Second question: If the government starts talks with Dostam and gets some results from these talks, would not some of the government allies oppose it?

You have also said that you were ready to hold talks with the opposition groups, while other groups and leaders, who are not government allies, do not have good relations with Dostam. For instance, the group of Mawlawi Khalis [leader of a faction of Hezb-e Eslami, Islamic Party]. How do you assess the situation?

[Morad] Regarding relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan I must say that the Government of Afghanistan was and is in favor of having good relations with the people of Pakistan. Pakistan was one of the host countries for Afghan refugees during the 14-year long jihad period. Pakistan extended favorable political and moral support to the people of Afghanistan; and the people of Afghanistan will never forget the help of the people of Pakistan.

However, relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan have had their ups and down since the victory of the Islamic revolution and the formation of the Islamic State. We have always sought to remove misunderstandings and to halt the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan which took place by some circles. A joint commission between Afghanistan and Pakistan should have been formed as proposed by the Islamic State; you have all heard this. [Passage indistinct] This commission should have the duty to remove misunderstandings and to prevent interventions by some circles. Unfortunately, despite announcing the news, no actual step was taken nor any inclination shown by Pakistan to start work. On the contrary, what we saw was an open and blatant interference by Pakistani circles. [Passage indistinct] Despite this, the Islamic State of Afghanistan is interested [words indistinct] in having good relations with Pakistan, but the principle of noninterference in internal Affairs must be observed. [passage omitted]

I will give you an example of the statements of Mawlawi Khalis. Once he was interviewed by an IRNA correspondent. The correspondent asked him: Do you recognize the northern national movement [Dostam's faction]? Mawlawi Khalis said: I do not even recognize the nine jihadi formations, because they are illegal. If I do not recognize these nine parties, how can I recognize Dostam? When he was asked again whether he was ready to hold talks with Dostam, he said yes, I am ready to hold talks with Dostam. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] A while ago Mr. Mestiri came to Kabul and met a number of leaders of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Has the Islamic State of Afghanistan presented him with a new proposal regarding the transfer of power? You pointed out earlier that a shura could be set up to represent the will of the people. Can you give us some information in this regard?

[Morad] [Words indistinct] there are some things in this regard. You all follow the events. I do not regard it as appropriate to reveal the detail of this plan.

You heard Mestiri say: I am trying to prevent more fighting in Afghanistan. I am not thinking of the transfer of power or the formation of a shura. I am doing my best to prevent future fighting so that we can work for the restoration of a durable peace in a calm and confident atmosphere.

[Nuri] Golahmad Nuri from ANIS newspaper: Regarding the recent aggression most of the political analysts think that Pakistan had two objectives in its recent intervention in the country's western regions. The first objective was to open a transit road to the Central Asian countries. Second, Pakistan wanted to topple the present Government of Afghanistan by conspiracies and collaboration with those groups who are completely on the side of the Inter- Services Intelligence. That is, to topple the present government and install a pro-Pakistan government in Afghanistan. What is your opinion? Have we got any evidence for this?

[Morad] In this regard we have had talks in the past with Pakistan and Turkmenistan. The Islamic State of Afghanistan was interested in opening a transit road so that the Central Asian countries could have access to other countries through Afghanistan. This would not only be in the interest of Pakistan but would also be in the interest of the people of Afghanistan. In addition to this, Pakistan may have other objectives or Afghanistan may have objectives. We believe that by fighting or by combat programs no country can achieve its objectives in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

[Ubeydollah] Ubeydollah, from the publication office of the attorney general: Professor Morad, you have said that you are ready for talks with Dostam. There are rumors that Dostam's representatives are in Kabul and they have reached agreement on certain issues with Afghanistan. Can you give us any information?

[Morad] We have not yet received any delegation, nor have we held any talks. We only said that the government is prepared for talks. If the opposition groups come to the conclusion that fighting cannot solve anything, the government is prepared to consider the wishes of the opposition groups. Thank you for your attention.

Report Addresses Taleban Plans To Attack Kabul

MS2609120795 London THE TIMES in English 26 Sep 95 p 10

[Report by Christopher Thomas: "Students' Army Gives Notice of Attack on Kabul"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Taleban, the Islamic students' army that controls one third of Afghanistan, is poised to strike at Kabul, the capital. Attacks were to have started yesterday, but the group announced a delay to give civilians more time to seek cover.

Although Kabul is only the nominal capital of a country carved up by warlords in a three-year conflict, it is an important symbolic prize.

Taleban probably lacks the strength to oust the forces of President Rabbani without a long siege. Kabul, surrounded by mountains, is a fortress, while Taleban's successes in the south and west have spread its forces thinly.

There is nowhere for the 750,000 residents to hide. Since the 1992 collapse of the Communist government, an estimated 25,000 people have been killed in battles for the city. A further 750,000 have fled, many of them to a huge refugee camp near Jalalabad. Most of those left are too poor to pay the fare out.

Taleban fighters are 25 miles south of the city. There have been skirmishes along the Taleban front line near the small town of Maidan Shahr and pro-Rabbani forces shelled the area with rockets, mortars and other heavy artillery over the weekend but failed to drive back the fighters. Abdul Qayum, the Taleban commander warned Mr Rabbani to quit or be forced out.

Mr Rabbani's two-year term of office expired last December, but he has refused to stand down, arguing that there is nobody to whom he can legitimately hand power.

Taleban emerged last year from Islamic schools in Pakistan. It is largely Pashtun, as are most Pakistani tribesmen in the border region, explaining why it enjoys Pakistani support; Kabul is held by Tajiks, traditional enemies.

Taleban denies being a Pakistani creation, although its objectives plainly suit Pakistani interests. Mahmoud Mestiri, who heads United Nations peace efforts in Afghanistan, said he was convinced Pakistan was behind the group's power.

Western governments also see merit in Taleban's successes. In capturing Kabul, it would control enough of the country to make it a force for stability. Pakistan wants to open trade routes with Central Asia, but war in Afghanistan makes that impossible.

Anti-Pakistan Protest Demonstration Held in Kabul

LD2409115095 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 24, IRNA — A group of Afghan people Saturday [23 September] assembled in front of the U.N. office in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, and strongly protested and raised anti-Pakistan slogans against the alleged interference of that country in internal affairs of Afghanistan, reports said.

Radio Kabul, monitored here on Saturday night said the demonstrators urged the United Nations to take strong steps in this regard. The protestors also demanded the U.N. to set up a committee to probe this issue.

Pakistan has rejected the allegation of supporting Taleban and interference in Afghan internal affairs terming it baseless and unfounded.

Political ties between the two countries had stranded since past three weeks when Pakistan Embassy in Kabul was attacked by an unruly mob.

Kabul radio also reported that government forces repulsed Taleban's attack on government positions from Maydan Shahr side and a number of them were killed and injured.

According to another report, Taleban Central Committee (Shura) was still in session Saturday in Qandahar to decide its future course of action for attacking Kabul.

Taleban sources in Peshawar say that a representative delegation comprising elders from various provinces had been despatched to the Afghan capital to ask President Rabbani to hand over power to Taleban.

Taleban Wednesday last warned Rabbani government to step down within five days and if he failed to do that they will attack Kabul and take government control in their hand. This ulimatum is to end on Sunday.

India

Daily Views 'Threat' From U.S. Arms to Pakistan

BK2709122395 Jaipur RAJASTHAN PATRIKA in Hindi 23 Sep 95 p 8

[Editorial: "U.S. Arms For Pakistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Senate's decision to supply arms to Pakistan is a cause of concern for India. The decision shows the continuation of the U.S. administration's old policy of deep sympathy with Pakistan and disregard of India. Senator Brown's earlier proposal for a one-time waiver of the Pressler Amendment, which bans arms supplies to Pakistan while it is engaged in nuclear preparations, had faced such strong opposition that it had to be withdrawn. Behind the scenes, however, contrivance by the pro-Pakistan lobby led to the Senate's approval of the proposal that is a cause of concern. It will not be appropriate to simply view it as a result of pressure from the U.S. arms industry. It is well known that whenever the United States supplies sophisticated arms to Pakistan, the result has been a war with India. This has not prevented successive U.S. administrations, both Democrat and Republican, to refrain from encouraging an arms race in the Indian subcontinent. Neither was there any hesitation to resort to perverse arguments instead of logic, nor was there any hitch against ignoring the facts of an arms race. Otherwise, how could one justify the Senate decision in light of the fact that the CIA itself told the U.S. administration a few days back that Pakistan has given the U.S. supplied F-16 aircraft to China to study its technology for indigenous manufacture. Even if such a serious revelation cannot bring about a change in the U.S. pro-Pakistan stance, it will be meaningless to hope that the United States will ever think realistically about Pakistan's intentions.

India has experienced the increased audacity of Pakistani rulers following its receipt of U.S. arms. Viewed from this perspective, there is more danger now than before because the arms which Pakistan will get are more lethal and strategic in nature. Given that these do not include F-16's, many squadrons of which had been supplied to Pakistan in the last decade, the new consignment includes the most dangerous anti-submarine P-3 Orion planes. These planes have a strike range that will make sorties right up to India's southernmost tip of Kanya Kumari not difficult to execute. Another threat will be from infrared equipment that will enable Pakistani helicopters to target tanks in the dark. Other avionics sytems will enhance Pakistan's air force strike capability. It is also worth mentioning that Pakistan is not only seeking United States assistance in the modernization of its armed forces. Recently, it concluded a deal with France to buy 32 Mirage-2000. It also plans to manufacture domestically with Chinese cooperation the Super-7 aircraft, considered to be in the same class as the F-16's. Pakistan's Army has more self-propelled guns than India. It has also acquired a large number of tanks in recent years from China.

The Senate's decision reflects the complete failure of India's U.S. policy. The U.S. talks about prospects of India as an emerging market, but at the same time it is forcing India to spend more on defense. India has opposed the supply of U.S. arms to Pakistan, but not effectively. India has capitulated so many times to U.S. pressure in various areas before that the U.S. no more considers its protests seriously. It is quite strange that while a high-level Indian delegation is currently holding talks with the U.S. on increasing defense cooperation, the U.S. administration is maneuvering to restore arms supply to Pakistan. This is insulting to India. India should strongly protest against this and refuse to cooperate with the United States in defense. It is most tragic that the decision to supply arms to Pakistan has proved that the U.S. concern about nuclear proliferation is mere hypocrisy. The Pressler Amendment imposed sanctions on Pakistan because it was engaged in nuclear preparations. Now is the time for India to state in unambiguous terms that it is not willing to enter into any type of dialogue on nuclear nonproliferation, stop the production of uranium meant for nuclear weapons, or curb its missile program. India should question U.S. intentions if it tries to hold talks on any of these issues. Failing to do this will prove disastrous for India's national honor. India's top most priority is the defense of the country which is now being threatened by the supplies of U.S. arms to Pakistan.

Army Official Denies Attack on Minister's Helicopter

BK2709123295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 27 (AFP) — An Indian cabinet minister said Wednesday [27 September] that his army helicopter was fired on when it strayed into Pakistani airspace in the disputed northern state of Kashmir.

An Indian army spokesman here denied, however, that the MI-17 helicopter had been fired upon or had crossed the Line of Control (LOC) separating Indian and Pakistani troops in divided Kashmir.

"It did not cross the LOC," Lieutenant Colonel Shruti Kant said. "There was no firing."

Power Minister N.K.P. Salve told reporters he had been told by Kashmir's inspector general of police that "the helicopter was fired upon by Pakistani troops."

Salve, who is on a three-day visit to Kashmir, said the helicopter was taking him to a power project being built by a Swedish firm in the border district of Uri when it strayed into Pakistani airspace and was fired upon.

The power minister said he had asked the Defence Ministry to conduct an inquiry into the incident.

Salve is one of the senior most cabinet ministers in Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's government and a top leader of India's ruling Congress (I) party.

Indian and Pakistani troops exchange fire on a near daily basis across the Line of Control separating the Indian- and Pakistani-held zones of Kashmir.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, the only Moslem- majority state in predominantly-Hindu India, since Moslem insurgents stepped up a campaign to end Indian rule in 1989.

India, which holds the southern two-thirds of Kashmir, accuses Pakistan of arming and training Moslem militants seeking independence for Kashmir or its merger with Islamic Pakistan.

Pakistan denies the charge but extends moral and diplomatic backing to what it describes as a legitimate campaign for self- determination.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since the subcontinent's independence in 1947.

Spokesman Cites 'Constant Sniping'

BK2809090795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An Air Force spokesman has denied reports that a helicopter carrying the power minister, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, strayed into Pakistani airspace. He said the flight path of the helicopter had been closely monitored and it did not cross the international border. Not ruling out the possibility that the aircraft had been fired at by Pakistani forces, the spokesman said constant sniping has become routine in the Uri sector where the incident took place.

Pakistan 'Sinister Plan' for Bombing Said Unearthed

BK2809094395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces have uncovered a sinister plan by the Pakistani ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] to cause bomb explosions on a big scale in the Jammu region to create communal tension, violence, and disorder to scuttle the revival of political process in the valley. An Army spokesman told media persons at Nagrota today that four major consignments of sophisticated bombs have been recovered. Four militants, including a Pakistani national, have been arrested. The seizure included four transistor bombs, five pistols, 10 packets of TNT explosives, three sniper rifles, and a large quantity of ammunition.

Kashmir Probes Charges of Human Rights Abuses

BK2409101895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has investigated nine more complaints of human rights abuses in the Kashmir valley and found seven of them as baseless and false. Two cases are still under investigation. The investigated cases revealed that killing of confirmed militants in encounters with security forces and recovery of arms and ammunition from their possession were falsely reported as custodial deaths by some local newspapers.

The state government has introduced the system of investigating all such allegations of human rights abuses reported in the newspapers in the state. This year 68 cases have been investigated and 58 of them were found baseless.

Medics Claim Hostages in Kashmir 'Quite Sick'

BK2709133995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1321 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 27 (AFP) — Four Western tourists seized by Muslim separatists in Kashmir nearly three months ago are "quite sick," officials said Wednesday [27 September] after a team of medics treated them in capitivity.

"All of them are quite sick," an official said, quoting the medics who examined the hostages on Monday at a hideout in the hills of Kishtwar in southern Kashmir.

"One of them is in serious condition," he added without identifying him.

However a Kashmir government spokesman here denied that any medical examination had taken place. "There is no truth to the report," he told reporters.

But an intelligence source and officials here said militants from the Al-Faran group holding the two Britons, an American and a German had taken several medics from a government clinic to examine the hostages.

"It is natural for Al-Faran to have the hostages examined periodically," the intelligence source said. "Everyone knows the foreigners are in their custody and if anything were to happen to them Al-Faran will get blamed."

Another official who spoke on condition he not be identified said the medics had trekked for about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the village of Apathi to a hideout in another village, where they examined the hostages.

The official did not release specifics about the condition of the four, but the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) said they were "suffering from various illnesses mainly due to the cold."

Kashmir government spokesman Kulbushan Jindiyal said meanwhile that the Indian authorities had not been in contact with Al-Faran since the night of September 19 but stressed that "the gap is not worrisome."

"To the best of our knowledge, the hostages are alive," he said. "Our hope is that the abductors will resume communications soon and that the matter will be resolved peacefully."

He added that the Indian authorities are "concerned about the safety of the hostages."

"We can't overlook what they did to the Norwegian," Jindiyal said in a reference to last month's slaying of Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro in August.

Another Indian official here said the militants holding Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Don Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert had apparently moved the hostages to southern Kashmir.

"There are indications that the abductors are shifting the hostages from their previous hideout to a new one keeping in view the onset of winter," he said.

Wells, 23, Mangan, 33, and Hutchings, 42, were seized July 4 while trekking in the Kashmir resort of Pahalgam. Hasert, 26, and Ostro, 27, were kidnapped in the same area four days later.

A government negotiator, Rajinder Tickoo, has been trying to re- establish direct or indirect contact for the past week with Al- Faran.

Tickoo had been talking to Al-Faran representatives by radio until two weeks ago. Since then, the authorities have been in communication with the abductors by telephone through Muslim intermediaries.

Al-Faran is demanding the relase of 15 Muslim militants from prison in exchange for the four tourists. The Indian Government has refused a swap.

Muslim militants have kidnapped scores of Indians and a number of Westerners to demand the release of jailed guerrillas or focus world attention on the separatist campaign that has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

Radio Says No Contact With Abductors for 7 Days

BK2709160295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There has been no contact between the government authorities and the abductors of the four foreign tourists for the last seven days. The tourists are in the militants' custody for the last 86 days. An official spokesman said in Srinagar today that there have been similar time gaps in the contacts on earlier occasions. He hoped that the contact would be revived soon.

Minister Announces 3 'Major' Power Projects

BK2709024895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Hydropower Corporation is investing over 900 crore rupees for executive three major projects in Jammu and Kashmir during the current financial year. The energy minister, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, told newsmen in Jammu today that 480 crore rupees will be for Uri project, 395 crores for Dulahasti, and 30 crore rupees for the second phase of the Salal project. He said the old agreement with the French consortium of companies for Dulahasti power project had been terminated and new global tenders have been invited. Mr. Salve said local people will be given preference in jobs in the projects.

Space Organization Announces Schedule for Programs

BK2709022095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indian Space Research Organization [ISRO] has announced the schedule for its next three major programs. The INSAT-2C on board the French Ariane-4 rocket will be launched on the 28th of November. The IRS-IC satellite would be launched by the Russian rocket (Molnia) during December. The third developmental flight of the PSLV [Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle] rocket carrying the IRS-P3 satellite would be carried out by early February next. The ISRO chairman, Dr.K. Kasturi Rangan, told newsmen in Bangalore today that the ISRO is negotiating strategic alliance with major communication satellite manufacturers in the world to enhance the country's interests in the area.

Radio on Government Efforts for Economic Reforms

BK2309131295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Sep 95

[Commentary by A.K. Bhattacharya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The statement made by the union finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, at Singapore yesterday is significant for two reasons. One, the finance minister minced no words in conveying to the gathered community of international businessmen that the Indian Government would continue to welcome foreign investment. What is most, he said that the government would not hesitate in formulating bilateral investment treaties with any country. This should be reassuring to all foreign investors who may have begun entertaining doubts about the safety of their investments in India following cancellation of the Enron power project.

Secondly, the finance minister tried to allay the fears of foreign investors by telling them that the cancellation of the Enron project was an aberration and no trend should be seen in that decision of a state government. Such a statement of assurance and clarification on the Indian Government's overall approach to foreign investment was necessary and in fact overdue.

Given the current political uncertainty in the country and its likely consequences on the continuation of the economic reforms program, Dr. Manmohan Singh could have either shunned this meeting or made an ambiguous statement reflecting India's present political climate. That he neither avoided the meeting nor said something ambiguous about India's policy toward foreign investment speaks volumes of Dr. Manmohan Singh's statesmanship at one level and his abiding commitment to the cause of economic reforms at another.

What also cannot be overlooked is his commitment to the path laid down and endorsed by the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. Even after the controversy over the Enron project, the prime minister has never been tired of reiterating his government's commitment to economic reforms. Now that the finance minister has also held out similar assurances, whatever doubts that may have still remained on this score should disappear.

Critics of the finance minister and the Rao Government will of course argue that such statements of assurances are hollow because the future of economic reforms will largely depend on the policies to be pursued by the new government that will come to power after the forthcoming general elections. But then, after four years of economic reforms there is little doubt that the broad contours of the economic reforms program particularly those pertaining to policies and foreign investment will remain by and large unaltered whatever may be the predilections of the new government. To that extent, both Mr. Rao and Dr. Singh have made statements that are not only relevant but also have kept the larger interests of the nation in view.

Iran

Student Rally Condemns U.S. Presence in Gulf

LD2709120395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The gathering of students and academics from higher education centers throughout the country was convened this morning in the immaculate shrine of the holy Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be admitted to God's paradise.

According to our correspondent, the ceremony was staged with the purposes of renewing allegiance with the aspirations of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr. Chamran, Armed Forces General Command cultural affairs deputy, honored Holy Defense Week and the day when the siege of Abadan siege was broken, saying: The sacrifices of our brave and proud combatants in the course of the eight years of holy defense, defeated the plots of Islam's enemies. Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani, minister of culture and higher education, also addressed the gathering, saying that the heroic defense of the people of our country in the face of the plots by global arrogance, was unforgettable. He called on students and academics to put all their efforts into safeguarding Islamic values and strengthening these values in higher education centers. He said that it was vital to adopt the culture of basij [voluntary mobilization] and called for promotion of the spirit of basij.

At the end of the gathering a 10-point resolution was read out. Among the points in this resolution were: Condemnation of increasing U.S. military presence in the region and emphasis on the implementation of the historic edict of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be admitted to God's paradise, concerning the apostate writer Salman Rushdie.

Radio Commentary Criticizes Arab-Israeli Accord

NC2809081195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0445 GMT 28 Sep 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ceremony for the final signing of the Israeli—PLO agreement on extending self-rule in the West Bank is to be held in Washington today. Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres reached an agreement in Taba, Egypt on 24 September on the contents of the agreement.

With the agreement between Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres in Taba for the final signature of the agreement on extending self-rule in the West Bank, popular and regional opposition with the compromise process has reached vast dimensions. Islamic parties and groups in Palestine and Lebanon have issued separate statements in which the recent PLO-Israeli accord is described as a coordinated effort by the United States, Tel Aviv, and 'Arafat to annihilate the aspirations of the Palestinian people. The people of Palestine too have held demonstrations in al-Khalil and in other areas on the West Bank and have described this accord as 'Arafat's overt treason against the people of Palestine.

A noteworthy point voiced from the opposition is that the majority of the members of the PLO's Executive Committee, namely Faruq al- Qaddumi, head of the foreign relations section and the number-two man at the self-rule negotiations, condemned the Taba accord and refrained from attending the session of the committee that was held to approve the accord. Although the motives of the opponents of the Taba accord may be different, all of them agree on the fact that this accord is to the detriment of the Palestinian people and helps to protract the Zionist regime's occupation in other ways.

According to the Taba agreement, the Zionist regime will continue its occupation of land on the West Bank and will have security supervision over areas which will be handed to the PLO under the extended self-rule arrangements. The areas that are to be handed over to the PLO comprise six towns on the West Bank and about 400 Arab-inhabited villages. Since these areas lack territorial cohesion, they will remain under Israeli siege on the one hand and, will prevent the Palestinians from imposing full sovereignty in the West Bank on the other; and this is basically contrary to the UN resolutions on Palestine and even to the Oslo agreement.

According to UN resolutions, the West Bank is considered to be an occupied area from which the regime occupying Jerusalem must withdraw. Under the agreement between 'Arafat and the Zionist regime, Israel retains the necessary instruments for controlling the operation of the self-rule area in the future, since decisions of the self-rule legislative council must be approved by a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee before they are implemented. And this will both prevent the approval of anti-Israeli laws and will also remove the possibility of participation by Islamic groups in the legislative council.

Political observers believe that despite the optimism expressed on the Taba agreement by the pro-compromise circles, the implementation of this agreement will face difficulties because of its profound shortcomings and because of the deep schism that was created in the self-rule executive committee after the agreement. And this helps to strengthen the group's front which opposes the compromise.

Article on PRC's 'Final Piece' for 'Islamic Bomb'

LD2409121795 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 24 Sep p 25

[Article by foreign correspondent Con Coughlin: "Unveiled: Iran's Bomb Plans"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The final piece in Iran's nuclear jigsaw is now in place. By providing the missing link to Iran's "great secret plan" to build the Islamic bomb, China has made a significant contribution to the Ayatollahs' attempts to produce their own nuclear warheads.

Until Chinese experts arrived in Iran earlier this year, the main obstacle obstructing the mullahs' efforts to acquire their own nuclear arsenal by the end of the century was their inability to produce enriched uranium, the crucial ingredient for developing nuclear bombs.

The Iranians initially hoped they could use their petrodollars to persuade the Russians to sell them the relevant equipment. Indeed, under the terms of the original deal negotiated between Iran and Russia at the end of last year, Moscow agreed to provide the Iranians with a gas centrifuge, a sophisticated device for enriching uranium to weapons-grade standard.

But following President Bill Clinton's visit to Moscow last May, President Boris Yeltsin bowed to American pressure and refused to honour the centrifuge contract.

The Russians did, however, press ahead with the rest of the 525 million pounds sterling contract to complete the controversial Bushehr nuclear power plant on the Gulf coast, which will significantly enhance Iran's nuclear expertise.

Now Chinese technicians have rescued the mullahs' nuclear dreams by constructing a calutron system, an electro-magnetic method for enriching uranium, at one of Iran's main nuclear research establishments at Karaj, about 100 miles northwest of Tehran.

Karaj, which has been built to withstand air attack and is the size of a medium-size town, was described, somewhat quaintly, as an "agricultural and medical research centre" by a team of UN nuclear experts that inspected the site three years ago.

But according to exclusive information acquired by THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, the system installed by the Chinese is similar to the technology the Iraqis used when they came "within months" of building their own nuclear device during the Gulf war in 1991.

Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, described as "chilling" the account provided last month by Rolf Ekeus, the chief UN weapons inspector, of just how close Iraq came to developing a nuclear capability.

Treading the same path taken by American scientists who worked on the Manhattan project in the 1940s, the research team that produced the bombs used to destroy the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Iraqis were able to build their own uranium-enriching calutron. Experts predict that Iran will be able to construct its own uranium-fuelled atomic bomb within five years.

While the Chinese have lent Iran invaluable assistance by providing uranium-enriching technology, Russian scientists have made the greatest contribution to Iran's nuclear education. Russian scientists are already working at most of Iran's 11 nuclear establishments, and experts predict that by next year more than 10,000 Russians will be on full-time secondment to the mullahs.

Only five of Iran's 11 nuclear institutions have been opened to international scrutiny. Both the Iranians and the Russians, who will be supplying Iran with three nuclear reactors, have vehemently denied that there are any sinister connotations in the co-operation.

After THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH disclosed last month that Russia and Iran had signed a new nuclear deal, Mikhail Ryzhov, the head of the Atomic Energy Ministry's international affairs department, denied Moscow had any intention of helping Iran acquire nuclear weapons.

The Iranians are adamant that they are developing their nuclear industry purely for peaceful, civilian use. But Iran's official denials square neither with the type of nuclear complexes they have built, nor with confidential reports that have recently been submitted to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani by his senior aides, copies of which have been obtained by THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH.

According to a report written by Dr Abbass-Pour, one of Rafsanjani's top atomic advisers and delivered before Chinese technicians completed work on the uranium-enriching calutron, Iran has now "concluded the first phase necessary to make an atom bomb."

The report also praised the special role played by Russian scientists in helping Iran to develop a nuclear arsenal, stating that the Russians "have very much enriched (sic) our atomic projects."

And if, as Reza Amrollahi, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, insists, the Ayatollahs' nuclear ambitions are entirely peaceful, then why does so much secrecy surround the multitude of nuclear establishments that have mushroomed throughout Iran?

Take, for example, Isfahan, home to the Ayatollah's "great secret plan." The complex was last inspected by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1992, when it was given a clean bill of health. If the nuclear research taking place at the complex is purely benign, why have the Ayatollahs seen fit to build half the complex underground, while the rest is covered with camouflage layering?

And despite the assurances of the IAEA, Isfahan has been identified as the nerve centre for Iran's attempts to produce a nuclear weapon, using specialists trained in China and Russia. Less is known about the Neka complex, located 100 miles northeast of Tehran. This is understood to be the likely destination of the two VVER 440 megawatt reactors that the Russians last month agreed to sell to Iran. The reactors, which are somewhat primitive compared with their Western counterparts, run on enriched uranium, the same kind of uranium Iran needs to develop its weapons capability.

Until details of the lastest Russian-Iran deal were disclosed last month, neither IAEA officials in Vienna nor the British and American governments were even aware of Neka's existence.

The difficulty of monitoring Iran's nuclear research activities is further complicated by the way the Ayatollahs have cleverly divided projects between rival groups.

Apart from the Atomic Energy Organisation, which is supposed to oversee projects designed for civilian use, both the armed forces and the Revolutionary guards have their own nuclear projects.

At the Mo'alem Kelayeh complex, for example, in northern Iran, the Republican Guards forcibly relocated local inhabitants to enable it to undertake its own nuclear research. The site has never been visited by international inspectors.

While the IAEA, a UN-affiliated body, continues to insist there is no cause for alarm about Iran's nuclear activities, critics argue the organisation is in danger of making the same mistake with Iran as it did with Iraq.

Throughout the late 1980s, UN inspection teams made regular visits to Iraq and found nothing untoward about Saddam Husayn's various nuclear projects.

It was only after the Gulf war, when some of Saddam's top scientists escaped to the West and provided detailed information about what was really going on, that the inspection teams found they had been the victims of a highly effective hoax, a hoax that came very close to having catastrophic consequences for British and American troops fighting in Operation Desert Storm.

Certainly, the Iranians appear to have learnt many of the tricks that Saddam has used to fool international inspection teams. Nuclear technicians have developed sophisticated techniques whereby they are able to interchange nuclear production lines so that they do not arouse the inspectors' suspicions.

The Iranians are also aware that, in the age of the spy satellite, they need to take greater precautions to conceal their nuclear activities. One memorandum that was recently circulated among the regime's ruling elite suggested that factories operated by the nationalised shoe industry, Melli, should be used as a cover for nuclear research.

Ideally, they should select a Melli plant that is normally used for manufacturing chemicals for shoe production. The plans should have a corrugated iron roof — the Ayatollahs apparently believe this offers protection from prying satellites — and the laboratory should be built deep underground.

That way, the outside world would be none the wiser about the true nature of the plant's activities.

The international inspectors will clearly need all their wits about them if they are to prevent Tehran's Islamic fanatics from holding the world to ransom.

Sources Cites Use of 'Kurdish Card' in North Iraq

NC2609213695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)— AL-AHRAM cites independent Kurdish sources in its issue tomorrow, Wednesday [27 September], as saying that Iran is currently trying to utilize the vacuum resulting from the failure of U.S.-Turkish efforts to conclude a peace agreement among the Kurds of northern Iraq to consolidate its influence in the region. They add that Iran is using the Kurdish card in its attempts to break loose from international isolation.

The sources warn that if Iran succeeds in infiltrating the Iraqi Kurds, the general situation in the Kurdish regions in Turkey, Syria, and Iraq, in addition to Iran will witness a heating up of conflicts, particularly since the Kurdish parties and militias have accumulated a large stock of weaponry over the years.

The sources say that the frustration the Americans felt after the failure of the second round of talks between the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in the Irish capital, Dublin, in mid-September has led to a halt in U.S. mediation between the Iraqi Kurds. This gave Iran a second chance to enhance its influence in northern Iraq, the sources say.

The Kurdish sources point out that Iran recently invited PUK leader Jalal Talabani and KDP Leader Mas'ud Barzani to visit Tehran and discuss ways to resume their peace talks under Iranian mediation. Barzani has visited Tehran twice already and Talabani is currently in the Iranian capital.

The independent Kurdish sources have pointed out that the Iranians are currently engaged in preparing a new mediation initiative to settle the two parties' crisis and stop the fighting. According to the sources, the northern Iraqi Kurds will have to accept this initiative, which Iran is coordinating with several Kurdish groups, as a substitute for the U.S. initiative.

The sources say that Iran is using its relations with a number of small Kurdish parties and clans to expand the scope of its influence at the expense of Turkey and the United States.

AL-AHRAM points out that Iran had repeatedly expressed its dissatisfaction with the U.S.-Turkish mediation to establish peace in northern Iraq, viewing this mediation as an attempt to banish its influence among the northern Iraqi Kurds.

The paper adds that the Kurdish sources have accused the United States of failing to make sufficient efforts to reconcile the two warring Kurdish parties. These sources explain that the U.S. delegation to the Dublin talks left the matter up to the Turkish observer, who attended the talks and tried to force Turkish conditions on the two parties.

Minister Urges Reinstatement of Iraq in Oil Market

LD2709203395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In an effort to stabilize the oil prices, Iran has called for reinstating Iraq in the world oil market. According to news agencies, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, the Iranian oil minister, in the fourth international conference of the oil consuming and producing countries being held in Venezuela said: It is very important that Iraq reenters the world oil market and this should be done to prevent further instability in prices.

Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i also called for all the oil producers to cooperate to restabilize prices, and added: OPEC is not able to do this alone. The decline in the influence of the OPEC is one of the main topics of discussion for the more than 40 countries participating in Puerto La Cruz conference in Venezuela.

UN Envoy for Afghanistan Mission Arrives, Comments

LD2709182395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud Mestiri, head of the UN secretary general's special mission to Afghanistan, arrived in Tehran today. Upon arrival, Mahmud Mestiri told our correspondent that the formation of new factions and recent clashes in Afghanistan have created problems for the people there. He added, this should be discussed with its neighbors, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran, to help establish peace there through mutual understanding.

'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, our country's deputy foreign minister for Asian and Oceanic affairs, described the situation in Afghanistan as very complicated due to continued clashes in the country. He also expressed the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to establish peace in Afghanistan will achieve positive results.

Ayatollah Khamene'i Delivers Speech, Praises Army

LD2709161595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1103 GMT 27 Sep 95

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to Army commanders, officials and the families of "martyrs" and war-disabled in Tehran on 27 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] There have been people in the Army, throughout these 17 years since the victory of the revolution, who have truly entered the field of struggle and selflessness with sincerity.

I have said this to you army brothers before: The Army is one of the places wherein the United States was defeated, the Taghuti regime [referring to an idol in the Koran and to the late Shah] was defeated, and the enemy's hostile propaganda was defeated. They worked very hard on the Army. They placed a lot of hope in the Army. They were wrong. They believed that, because a handful of treacherous and irreligious people had been placed at the head of the Army during the time of Taghut, the Army was theirs; whereas the Army belonged to Islam, belonged to Iran, belonged to the nation. God be praised, it returned to its rightful place. [passage omitted]

Further praise for both the Army and the late Khomeyni, who served Iran and Islam well because of their strong faith.

Is our Army the same as it was 15 years ago? Or 10 years ago? We are much more advanced today than we were then. Today, the Army is strong. It is a solid and capable army. Today, the Army has gathered together the experience of years of war and the extensive training which exists and combined them with a spirit of faith, piety, and revolution. The 17 years since the revolution is not a short space of time. There are now people at the head of the Army, many of whom are of an excellent standard from these points of view. That is our Army today.

You, my dear ones, should know that, to the same extent that you have the capacity to expend effort and work, you also have the capacity to grow and make progress. I do not mean personal growth. I mean the growth of this good tree. You can make it grow. Even now, our Army is stronger, more solid, more useful and, in difficult times, more effective than most of the armies that you know in this area; even now... [pauses]

However, you can advance even 10 times more than you have already advanced, and you should do so. Everyone of you, wherever you are, should regard that place as a fortress for truth, justice, and spiritual values. Work hard, make efforts, do not waste a single moment. The tasks that you have to perform are:

1. Organizing; strengthening your relevant force or your relevant section and the entire Armed Forces from an organizational point of view.
2. Training; training is very important.
3. Reconstruction.
4. Being innovative, as you already are. Of course, what is recorded by television cameras is less than what is actually taking place. Fortunately, today the Armed Forces are busy in the field of armored equipment, in the anti-armor field, in the field of all different types of defensive equipment, and many other areas. They are doing well in these fields.

As much as you can, you should try to use initiative and innovation to find short cuts. You can do so. Believe that you can do so, as you have already done so. [passage omitted] .

Those were in the area of production. The second issue is the issue of maintenance. Maintenance is very important. The bullies of the world have turned against you. Let them do so. Do they think they can bring you to your knees? [passage omitted]

Let them not give you anything. This is not important. First of all, they will give you what you need. Despite all those policies, there are many people in the world who are interested in money and trade.

They think that they have imposed an arms embargo. No. Even during the war and in the midst of the embargo we succeeded in obtaining forbidden and banned items, those things which in their view were forbidden and were like fruits of paradise from numerous sources. We will also obtain them today. Even if we cannot obtain them, we will make them.

However, in view of the limitations which we are facing, you should appreciate what we have. You should maintain every one of your fighter planes, every one of your aircraft, every piece of your equipment, even an ordinary rifle. Wasting military resources is forbidden and it is also forbidden from a religious point of view. No one is allowed to waste.

The same thing is true about the waste of human resources. You are not allowed to waste useful elements. Capable individuals should be allowed to produce good work. This wheel of the military machine should be revolving all the time.

You should bear in mind all the above points, but the most important thing which supports and guarantees the success of all of those is an attitude of faith. A person without faith is not useful even if he possesses the greatest degree of expertise. [passage omitted]

It is as the result of such an attitude that the enemy will fail and of which the enemy is afraid. The enemy is very afraid of such things. If today you see that the propaganda loudspeakers of the Zionists, the Americans, the arrogant forces and those with evil intentions in the world have lined up against the Islamic Republic of Iran; if you see that they have opened their mouths and are speaking, each in a different way, against Islam and Muslims and, above all, against the Islamic Republic, it is due to your faith. They are very afraid of this faith. Maintain your faith. Exert all your efforts in the field of faith, of Islam, of turning towards God, of acting in the interest of the people and being useful for the country and the revolution. This is an effort which will not be wasted. You shall see its results in the Armed Forces and in the country. Above all, you should enjoy its benefits in the eyes of almighty God. [passage omitted]

The final issue that I wish to point out as an important matter is the need for unity, solidarity, and cooperation among the Armed Forces personnel. The Armed Forces and the Guards Corps are two organizations, but they are two brothers. Be careful that you strengthen this brotherhood day by day.

I hope you will be successful. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Guards' Commander Addresses 'Popular War Efforts'

LD2709212595 Tehran IRNA in English
2046 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA — Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major-General Mohsen Reza'i here today dwelt on the significance of people's participation in what he called popular war efforts.

Addressing the fifth conference on the defense week, he said that that both before and after the triumph of the Islamic revolution guerrilla warfare as well as classic warfare had proved a failure while the popular form of the warfare as having emerged during the Islamic revolution was a working alternative to both of them.

The conference concentrates mainly on implications of popular contributions nationwide to the war effort.

A number of IRGC and ranking army officials are to offer their own assessment in the form of papers on the topic at the conference which is in progress at the Imam Husayn University of Tehran.

Another speaker at Wednesday's [27 September] session was Majles deputy Mohammad Javad Larijani, who said the word 'defense' in Iran has come to acquire the meaning of defense of Islam. He referred to the concept of defense in the west, and said that in Islamic Iraq connotative implications absent in any other country. [sentence as received]

Efforts Reportedly Started To Curb High Prices

95LA0372A Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Jul 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] News Service—**The joint appointment of the Government Punishment Organization and Law Enforcement to fight price hiking and ensure clear and timely implementation of the law will be implemented starting today for four days in the large markets of Tehran.**

Ahad Baqerzadeh, the deputy director of the National Government Punishments Organization and the director of the Government Punishment Organization of Tehran Province, made this announcement in an interview with reporters yesterday (Saturday [15 July]) and added: People may go to the joint tents of the Punishment Office and the Law Enforcement of Tehran to register their complaint and report to the officials.

He said: In order to investigate foreign currency violations, regulate the foreign currency market, return the foreign currency obtained from non-oil exports to the country, and to make desirable use of it, a special branch for investigating foreign currency violations has been established in the Government Punishment Organization in order to investigate foreign currency violations ahead of their turn from here on.

The director of the Government Punishment Organization of Tehran Province added: So far, more than $12,202,535 has been discovered from foreign currency smugglers, and smugglers have been fined more than 3.653 billion rials [R].

He said: Recently, a nine-member foreign currency gang active in the country and abroad has been tried for smuggling $12 million, fined R70.2 billion in cash, and sentenced to five years in prison.

In continuation, Baqerzadeh referred to the establishment of the special branch to investigate medical, pharmaceutical, and powdered milk violators and added: All reports from the people in this regard and reports by the Medical Sciences, Iran, and Martyr Beheshti Universities will be examined in the Article 11 Committee of the Government Punishment Organization concerning supervision and inspection of the prices of health goods and services and distribution of the Ministry of Health prior to being investigated in the Punishment Organization.

Seriously warning the drug procurement and distribution companies, medical establishments and pharmacies against price hiking, hoarding, and unofficial distribution, he said: Those establishments that engage in distribution outside the legal network or increase the official prices of drugs will be severely dealt with.

He said: The price of every pharmaceutical item must be written on the prescription, and the prescriptions must be stamped by the pharmacy.

The deputy director of the National Government Punishments Organization added: Soon, Naser Khosrow Street in Tehran will be charged with being elements who disrupt drug distribution in the country and drug dealers.

Baqerzadeh said: In order for rapid and timely implementation of the government punishment law, investigation of violations ahead of their turn, protection of the low-income strata, and punishment of the violators, special traveling branches of the Government Punishment Organization have been established in Tehran and provincial capitals.

He said: So far, of more than 150,000 complaints, 125,000 cases have been investigated in the National Government Punishment Organization and final rulings issued.

He added: Of this number, 32,000 cases were in the province of Tehran, of which 26,000 cases have been completed and R58.33 billion has been collected in fines.

The head of the Government Punishment Organization of Tehran referred to the investigation of violations in the cases of Zamzam-e Iran, Iran Puya, Pars Household Appliance, Iran Milk, Morvarid, Khanehgostar, Central Bahman, and dozens of other factories and said: These factories have been fined more than R45 billion.

In conclusion, requesting the extended presence of the people in fighting price hiking, Baqerzadeh asked the officials to support the Inspection Organization against the attacks by economic violators in order for the servants of this organization to perform their duties in the best possible manner.

Stock Transactions Reportedly Rise by 60%

95LA0372C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—In the first four months of this year, 48,900,546.21 shares at a total value of more than 399,936,688,000 rials [R] was traded in the Tehran stock market.**

According to a report by the economic correspondent of RESALAT, compared to a similar period last year, these figures increased by 60.06 percent (1.6 times), and in rial volume, by 95.62 percent (1.95 times).

Based on this report, in the first four months of this year, the Financial Organization for Expanding the Ownership of Production Units, by offering 12,392,733 shares; the Expansion and Renovation of Iranian Industries Organization, by offering 9,852,400 shares; and the Industries and Mines Bank, by offering 1,229,954 shares, have offered the most shares to the stock market.

Daily Announces Distribution of Coupons in Tehran

95LA0372D Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—The distribution of coupons in the 10th urban phase for essential goods of the city of Tehran will begin from 10 Mordad 1374 [1 August 1995].**

The Public Relations Office of the Central Bureau of Trade of Tehran Province made this announcement and added: The distribution of these coupons will be done in three stages, the first of which will begin on 10 Mordad 1374 for 17 days, every day except holidays, from 1530 to 1800 in 986 branches of Melli, Saderat, Tejarat, Mellat, and Sepah Banks.

The branches of these banks, the names of which will be announced later, will distribute coupons during these hours.

Also, the next phase of distribution of coupons will be announced later.

The Tehran citizens are requested to gradually go to the bank branches to receive their coupons, considering that there is enough time and a sufficient number of branches.

This report indicates that the time for the distribution of coupons in other cities of the province of Tehran will be announced later.

The necessary documents for receiving coupons are a valid birth certificate and the stub of the coupons from the ninth phase.

Also, in order to implement the changes regarding the stubs of the ninth phase coupons, 18 regions are assigned in Tehran.

Four Meat Coupons Reportedly To Be Announced

95LA0372H Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—With the ratification of the Economic Council, in the course of this year four meat coupons will be announced.**

This statement was made by Engineer Foruzesh, minister of construction jihad.

According to a report by the journal GAHNAMEH-YE OMID, he added: The purchase of 80,000 tons of meat has been ratified in the Economic Council. Also, of the four coupons that will be announced this year, two will be adjusted and two will be subsidized. In this session, the minister of construction jihad asked for the establishment of an independent headquarters to oversee the distribution system and the Ministry of Construction Jihad.

Export Center Announces Export Price of Products

95LA0372E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—The export price of several items was announced by the Export Expansion Center.**

According to a report by NASHR-E QANUN journal, the export price of various black steel pipes, 12-inch and larger, manufactured by Ahvaz Pipe Manufacturing Company, is $345 until the end of Aban [21 November] this year.

Based on this report, the export price of pullet hens (young chicken) is $2.20 and egg-laying pullets $1.30 in general (for those who have permits) until the end of this year [20 March 1996].

The export price of 600 cc aluminum-covered doors of the Niku Hafezan Tejart Company until the end of Aban this year was set at $5 per kg.

This report indicates: The export price of a 500-sheet box of tissue paper of the Nowzohur Paper Manufacturing Industries Company until the end of Aban this year is 70 cents ($0.70).

Also, the export price of live sheep was announced at $2.10 per kg and live goats at $1.25 per kg, in general for those with permits, until the end of this year.

Daily Says 'Economic Crisis' Threat to Press

95LA0371B London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Jun 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Crisis Threatens the Iranian Press**

KEYHAN, established in Tehran, stopped the printing of several of its publications.

More than 60 percent of the monthlies were not published last month.

The French news agency [AFP], in a report from Tehran, writes about the pressures of the economic condition on the press: Iranian papers are seriously threatened with having to stop publication as a result of the economic crisis and the increasing cost of production. In this report, AFP refers to the doubling of the single issue sales price of newspapers and the increase from 10 tumans to 20 tumans on 20 Khordad (11 June) and the open letter of seven [as published] Tehran newspapers (KEYHAN, ETTELA'AT, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, SALAM, RESALAT, ABRAR, KAR, and KARGAR) and writes, "all these newspapers have mentioned the increase in the single issue price as an attempt to counter the economic pressures and the increasing price of paper and in order to withstand other general expenditures." According to PAYAM-E EMRUZ, the crisis is so serious that several publications will probably close down in the future weeks or months.

AFP refers to the results of a study published in PAYAM-E EMRUZ, and quoting it writes: "Of the Iranian monthlies, 66 percent were not published last month due to the shortage of paper and its heavy cost, and a large number of economic journals will not be able to continue publication. The cost of imported paper from Russia is set on a day-to-day basis."

The news agency adds: "According to the officials of several journals, the press is forced to procure some of their needs on the open market in order to survive. The crisis is so severe that it has gripped such newspapers as KEYHAN and ETTELA'AT as well so that KEYHAN has been forced to stop several of its publications, including KEYHAN-E FOKAHI, KEYHAN-E BACHEHHA, and two newspapers in Arabic and Urdu."

According to this report, 650 newspapers, magazines, and journals are published in Iran, of which 32 percent are from provincial cities. In Tehran, 13 newspapers are published and the same number of newspapers are published in provincial cities. Completing the list of Iranian publications are 241 monthlies and 120 quarterlies, as well as specialized journals that are published at least once every six months.

In Iran, for a population of more than 60 million people, of which 85 percent are literate, 1.6 million copies of publications are published, which is small considering the population of the country. According to the official statistics of the Islamic Republic, 30 percent of Iranians never read newspapers.

Every year, the Islamic Republic spends tens of millions of dollars on importing paper, chemicals, and spare parts for printing presses. In order to eliminate the shortage of paper, the Ministry of Petroleum has been assigned to import $170 million worth of paper and printing material this year.

According to the news agency report, the economic crisis of the press also affects the personnel and has social consequences. KEYHAN, the largest press establishment of the country, intends to reduce the number of its employees.

Experts predict that in order to meet the needs of the press, the government must import $700 million worth of paper and paper pulp in 1996. (To understand the dimensions of this figure, it would be enough to say that the whole investment of the Total Company on Siri Island for five years of exploration and excavation is no more than $600 million. KEYHAN)

Daily Calls New Press Law 'Official Strangulation'

95LA0376E Berlin NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian 4 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Recently, the new press law proposal was prepared by a group of deputies and presented to the Majles. The new proposal seems to be a calculated maneuver by the rulers of the Islamic Republic to escalate the official strangulation and stifling of any sort of opposition in the national press. Here, we will briefly examine some of the paragraphs of this proposal.

In Chapter 2 of the new proposal, concerning the "mission of the press," we read:

"C. Endeavor to negate the disuniting lines and not set various strata of the society against each other.

"D. Fighting the manifestations of the colonialist culture—propagation and spreading of the Islamic culture and performing the duty of instruction to do good and prevent evil..."

In Chapter 4 of the proposal, concerning the "limits of the press," we read:

"Article 8. The press are free, except in the area of disrupting the foundations of Islam and general rights that are specified in this chapter.

"1. The publication of heathen issues and those contrary to the requirements of the religion and propagation of issues that harm the foundations of the Islamic Republic.

"5. Protecting and encouraging individuals and groups to commit acts against the security, dignity, and interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the country or abroad...

"7. Insult to the religion of Islam and what it holds sacred, and also insult to the grand leader and proven sources of emulation...

"10. Plagiarism and also quoting from deviant presses, parties, and groups and those opposing Islam (domestic and foreign)..."

Finally, in the section on the "qualifications of the applicants" for publication license, we read:

"Note 6. Members of illegal parties and groups shall be denied the right to publish journals...

"Note 8. Individuals who have cooperated with antirevolutionary publications abroad and also individuals who have opposed the historical decree of Imam Khomeyni concerning the apostate, Salman Rushdie, will be denied the right to publish journals. Also, their publishing any sort of matter in the national press will be subject to prosecution..."

In other words, in the Islamic Republic, only those journals are free that firstly propagate the ruling dictatorial regime, avoid issues concerning class differences, and avoid the problems resulting from these differences that are increasing every day; they should not publish anything that may inflict the slightest harm on "the foundations of the Islamic Republic" and at the same time must engage in propagating and spreading "Islamic culture and instructing to do good and preventing prohibited acts" (of course, certainly in a framework that the Ministry of Information and other suppressive organizations will determine). Moreover, if a person, after all these paragraphs, problems, and "oaths," should dare to apply for a publishing license, firstly, he must make it clear whether or not he supports the order to kill Salman Rushdie. Then he must make it clear whether or not a person or persons in his family and ancestry have had any contact with the "counterrevolutionaries," "opponents," etc. Only then will his case be examined and his journal receive permission to be published, provided such a journal conforms to the "interests of the regime."

The new proposal for the press law is undoubtedly an organized effort by the regime to tighten the noose of strangulation and escalate the existing censorship against the licensed presses in the country. The inclusion of a general paragraph that can easily be interpreted at will as needed along with the paragraphs that clearly contradict the standards of freedom and human and civil rights show that the regime, simultaneous with escalating the social, economic, and political crisis and the heightening of the discontent of the masses, is determined to block any sort of report on the opposition, even if indirect and censored, in the national press and open the way to closing down the "opposing" publications and presses.

The inclusion of several principles (directly or indirectly) about the necessity to defend the institution of the leadership of the Islamic Republic, or in other words "religious guardianship," and tying the freedom of the press to the acceptance of this principle once again shows that the principle of "religious guardianship" is the most important obstacle to freedom in the country. The new press law proposal goes to the extent of threatening the press in this manner with the law on punishments: "Article 32. Anyone who through the press clearly incites the people to commit a crime or crimes against the domestic security or foreign policy of the country..., if it has an effect, shall be convicted of participation in the same crime and, if it has no effect, shall be treated in accordance with the opinion of the religious magistrate on the basis of the law on punishments..." (quoted from SALAM, 25 Khordad 1374 [15 June 1995]).

Another point is that the new press law proposal is presented to the Majles under the conditions that in recent months we have witnessed the escalation of pressures on some of the licensed presses in the country and the closure of some, such as TAKAPU, BARRASIHA-YE TARIKHI-YE IRAN, and JAHAN-E ESLAM. This action, along with the assault by armed agents on PAYAM-E DANESHJU newspaper, is among the events that cannot be evaluated as coincidental with the press law new proposal.

In short, the new press law proposal is a symbol of a still more violent and bolder dictatorship against which we must stand with all our might. Submitting to this foreboding and reactionary law is a step toward increasing escalation of the stifling and censorship of the press in Iran.

Propaganda Chief Comments on Forming Ministry

95LA0311A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 18, 19 Jun 95

[Report on two-part interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-'Araqi, chief of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[18 Jun p 15]

[FBIS Translated Text] News Division—Following the Majles presentation by a number of deputies of the motion to dissolve the Islamic Propaganda Organization, the Qom Arts Seminary, and the Islamic Propaganda Office, and to form a new ministry called the Ministry of Islamic Guidance and Propaganda, and the approval of its general form in the open Majles despite its rejection by the Majles Islamic Guidance Commission, there were debates in cultural and artistic circles on opposition and support for this motion.

These debates prompted us to seek out these people and learn their views. In this regard we interviewed Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-'Araqi, chief of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, the details of which will be presented for readers in two parts.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What is your view on the motion that was recently presented to the Majles by a number of deputies, whose general form was approved?

[Mohammadi-'Araqi] First, I thank JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI for taking up this subject. I regret that the necessary attention has not been given to such an important issue, a decision on the structure of the nation's cultural organization, under circumstances when we have before us what is at least one of the most important problems in our government, the problem of culture and taking a cultural approach to the cultural invasion. Naturally we must give importance to this issue. Yet this motion was easily approved in its general form in the Majles without the relevant organizations speaking before the Majles. It would have been appropriate for the media to treat this more fully.

In any case, thank you for giving your attention to this subject.

The motion that was presented to the Majles was not a motion for consolidation. If you read the text, you will see that it is a motion to dissolve cultural organizations and to create a new ministry called the "Ministry of Guidance and Islamic Propaganda." Its text contains only two orders, one to dissolve the Ministry of Guidance, the Propaganda Organization, and the Art Seminary, which was mentioned mistakenly by the gentlemen as a separate organization, though it is part of the Islamic Propaganda Organization. This order is one of the motion's weaknesses, and attention has not been given to it. It seems that you are proposing the dissolution of the Ministry of Guidance and the Deputy Ministry of Propaganda or the Deputy Ministry of Art, or one of its affiliated organizations for example, and Qom Seminary's Office of Propaganda.

The second order is for the formation of a ministry, which naturally takes in all of these, called the Ministry of Guidance and Islamic Propaganda.

To put it bluntly, this motion in this form is the most inappropriate way to solve a problem. I agree that we have problems with the cultural organizations in the country. This problem may have solutions. If I were to judge, I must say that this dissolution and formation of a new government organization that includes all of them is the most inappropriate solution to this problem; this solution is absolutely not the appropriate way to solve the problem.

Some may think this motion will achieve the goals of reducing government expenses and personnel, but this is not the case either. I am prepared to sign a statement that doing this not only will not bring down expenses, it will even increase them.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In your view, was sufficient expert work done on the motion?

[Mohammadi-'Araqi] There was no expert study on this motion to dissolve. It was studied in Majles commission, the mechanism of invitation was used, there were discussions there, and naturally the motion was rejected. When the motion was presented to the Majles, no invitation was issued to us or to other organizations whose dissolution was about to be decided, despite the importance of the subject. I am confident that if this had been discussed in the Majles, it would have been rejected there just as it was rejected in the commission. The issue is so clear that the motion would have been rejected in the Majles had it been discussed, but of course it was not. Not only did we not speak, but the Ministry of Guidance did not speak on this, nor did the Propaganda Office. They dissolved four organizations, but not one of them spoke to the open Majles. The government's representative did not speak either, and the government's representative should speak concerning every motion.

When I said this, unfortunately, one of the newspapers made an inference and commented that someone said that we were in the Majles on this matter.

The Majles Speaker's Council announced that the government has no opinion on this subject. First of all, this is not sufficient. They must explain why they have no opinion, and there is reason to discuss why the government's representative did not have an opinion on an issue of this importance. Why is it without an opinion? It is as if we should have no opinion on something like the dissolution of an organization. If it has no opinion, there is a reason why it has no opinion. This should be discussed and in my opinion it was questionable.

One thing that was questionable for us was the fact that several influential Majles members were absent from both sessions. The motion was discussed in the Sunday and Tuesday sessions, and individuals with Majles responsibilities were absent from both sessions.

Very well, we are an organization that follows the exalted leader. In any case a view expressed in the Majles concerning us that is validated by the exalted leader and conveyed to us, whether about dissolution, consolidation, closure or anything else, will be accepted by us as a law, an order, and a command, and we will adhere to it. Yet the subject should be thoroughly analyzed so that in another six months, in a year, or in two years, we will not do the same things again.

You know that what I said, and unfortunately this was not reported well, was that dissolution and the establishment of a new ministry will lead to at least a year of no work by the three organizations. Anyone who has done executive work knows what it means to dissolve and establish organizations. If many of our managers are strong and super-managers and they want to dissolve four organizations, then we are like Abraham who said to God that he wanted to be sure about bringing the dead back to life and was told by God to cut off the heads of four birds and pound them, then call their names, and then the four of them came to life. If our managers can perform such miracles, they may be able to dissolve the four organizations quickly and make a new and freshly cast organization from their corpses, but no one has such a miracle. I say conservatively that the work will stop for at least a year. Is this really the best solution? Are we unable to find a better solution than this for solving the problems in the cultural apparatus?

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In your view, how much savings will be achieved through the approval of this motion?

[Mohammadi-'Araqi] First of all, not only will there be no savings but costs will increase because the revolutionary and non-government organizations are inexpensive, making use of aid outside the government budget. Assuming we get 100 million tumans from the government, we get at least twice that amount from other places. The organization now has a three-part budget: one is government assistance from the government's general budget; another part is help from the exalted leader; and another part is public aid. Clearly, it would be unprecedented for the public to come and render aid to a government ministry.

Our accounts are now quite clear. Assuming we had less than 1 billion tumans in a government current expense budget—which was increased last year and is not comparable to that of government organizations—assuming we had 4 billion tumans in financial performances, how could this amount be approved for a government organization? Although we did not have a single rial in development budget funds, during these 10 years we have had something like 40 development projects, most of which were built with public assistance. From the Koran society in a remote village to the great Light Complex Project we built at the Qom Power Plant site, we invite you to go there and report on these. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani laid the cornerstone for this task on his first trip to Qom, with 10 million in aid that he provided. We have at least 2,000 youths coming to us every day and at least 200 million tumans is spent for that purpose. It has a 600-seat cinema salon, and the first large cinema salon in Qom was built at that complex.

We did not have even one rial from the government's general budget. We have 40 semi-complete projects throughout the country without even one rial from the government's official and development budgets. Very well, if this is bad, then we won't do it anymore. You know that for every tuman spent on work done in a revolutionary organization, there is a return of at least two tumans, and it should be this way. Yet we all know that in the government organizations we have to spend 10 tumans to get one back; this is also natural.

Another more important point is: are cultural issues the proper place to economize? Under these conditions, if the issue is economizing, we really ought to start elsewhere. My question to those who presented this motion for the sake of economy is: how much will this save, and is it so valuable that we should dissolve the entire cultural apparatus to save a few million tumans a year? Are we looking for economy? Is economizing more necessary than the Islamic Propaganda Organization?

The Islamic Propaganda Organization's personnel are currently not official government personnel; that is, the government has no commitment to them. For example, the Islamic Propaganda Organization's personnel and those of the Art Seminary and the Propaganda Office do not have the health insurance the government employees have. If these organizations become government organizations, they will want all of these benefits. The new organization's budget definitely will not decrease. It will even increase.

With regard to cultural issues, it is quite regrettable that we are abandoning the basic issues and are dealing with issues such as how much money will be saved in the budget! We have much more basic issues than this.

There is a basic question with respect to decisionmaking on cultural work in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Is it logical and in our interest for all of our cultural organizations to be under the government? What do the interests of the government and the revolution tell us? Is it in our interest for all the organizations that want to do cultural and propaganda work, and especially Islamic propaganda work, to be 100 percent and officially government organizations? This question must be answered and cannot be easily and simply passed over merely by saying that we want to consolidate and save on costs. We therefore cannot escape this question and must answer it clearly either yes or no. Without an answer, then it will be just that, unanswered.

We all know we had three important factors in the triumph and continuation of the revolution: 1. Islam; 2. leadership; 3. the people.

In cultural and propaganda work, don't we want an organization that establishes a relationship between this Islam as an orthodoxy, the leadership of the revolution, and the people?

Our view was based on the idea that something called the Islamic Propaganda Organization has come into existence. Then this Islamic Propaganda Organization determined that it must follow the leadership. We are proud that we follow the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and there is no greater source of pride.

As an individual, I am proud that in this adherence I am a small part of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The issue is: what is in the interest of Islamic propaganda? What is the place of an Islamic propaganda that wants to establish and protect the relationship between the public and the orthodoxy, be that domestically, outside the country, or in the entire world?

Is this the place of a ministry or an office affiliated with a ministry, or is it the place of the leadership?

As an expert, I say that the matter of Islamic propaganda is one of the functions of the leadership, and the Islamic propaganda apparatus must be in direct affiliation with the leadership. If the government changes, Islamic propaganda must not be subject to the changes. I may be mistaken, and therefore I ask all the dear ones to offer criticism if they consider this view to be mistaken.

The second point is that the role of the clergy in Islamic propaganda is crucial. Let us not forget the Islamic revolution. At that time the imam had no radio or television, no ministry, no political party, no military power, and no foreign or domestic political support. What did the imam do in this triumph of the Islamic revolution? In that very month of Ashura in 1342 [21 March 1963 - 20 March 1964], the imam preached from the same pulpits and said: This year in the month of Moharram you must discuss three subjects: the danger of Israel, U.S. crimes, and the shah's crimes. The fruit of that was 15 Khordad [5 June], and then came the martyrs of this revolution, the dear ones of Imam Hoseyn.

Our revolution is the fruit of their labors. Shouldn't this relationship be preserved? What percentage of the people in Iran read the newspapers? In urban society, 36 percent read the newspapers. What percentage of our people go to the movies? Very few. What percentage of the people read books? On the other hand, during those 10 days in Ashura, was there anyone to be found in Iran who did not listen to sermons, from the rural illiterates to the university professors? We have this forum. This forum of Imam Hoseyn does not cost the government a single rial. How much is spent? Billions are spent, but who spends it? We really must look at these things.

Before Moharram you may not have heard about this. This was the first time we had a three-day national seminar conducted from the pulpits. They also hosted the exalted leader and the president of the republic, they were guests of the Islamic Propaganda Organization for three days, and they also inspected important projects in Tehran. Can preachers throughout the country be entertained as guests in government offices, and would this be proper, or could this be done with religious delegations who gather in Tehran and in the provinces? In the Province of Tehran we have about 7,000 religious delegations. If we are to have only one ministry, what will become of these delegations, and in general who will supervise and guide them? Is it in our interest to make them affiliates of an official government organization?

Publishers and newspapers must get authorization from a government organization, which is proper, and this Ministry of Guidance does this, but is it right for us to say that they must get authorization from a government organization to form a religious organization? Where are we getting this model? Very well, the Westerners do not do this. They do not make their own propaganda organizations 100 percent government affiliates. You know that all over the world, they themselves speak of "non-government organizations." They have a world in the world. In our cultural and propaganda work, can we put everything we have into the framework of a ministry and can we say everything we have to say as a government? Is this right? In my view we cannot do this, either domestically or outside the country.

Some say that we cannot question an organization like the Islamic Propaganda Organization that is not led by a minister. Therefore, how are we to give money to this organization? This is a delicate issue the Majles deputies are raising. They are saying sir, when we give out money from the government's budget, a minister must be responsible for it, someone we can question whenever we wish. This sounds good and is publicly appealing. They want to question a representative of the people who plans to give out money appropriately and ask him what he did with it.

We now answer to two places: one is the Accounting Organization affiliated with the leader, and one is also the Accounting Court. We answer to both places, while government organizations answer to only one place. In any case, we are also very happy.

The leadership's Accounting Supervision Organization says it wants accounts from us based on programs. We must state how much we spent on Koran activities. The Accounting Court requires us to submit accounts based on the 20 articles, how much in salaries we paid, how much in fees for missions, how much we spent on investment activities, and how much we spent on construction. Those familiar with accounting know that it is very difficult to design a system that answers in two ways. Through the grace of God, we have done this. Our computer system is such that it produces two [as published] different kinds of data. One is based on the program, another gives a qualitative report, and another reports based on the articles.

The Western World itself, which designed the parliamentary system, has made provisions in this regard.

In our country, do you know the ministry under which the Red Crescent Society works? Do you know the amount of its annual budget? It is perhaps at least 50 times that of the Islamic Propaganda Organization. Very well, who answers for it in the Majles? The Red

Crescent is not affiliated with any ministry. Do you know why? Well, it is logical that it should not be. Its budget is such that it is more guaranteed from the government's budget. Under the law, 1.5 percent of the fees paid in the registry offices is deposited into the Red Crescent account. Now what minister do we question? Even its credits are outside the accounts. Why did you do this? The issue with the Red Crescent is aid. If there is a flood or an earthquake here or there and if a Red Crescent official were afraid to render aid because he might be audited, there would be virtually no aid. Therefore, because of the importance of aid and public assistance and its public dimension, they said a non-government society should do the work of rendering aid. It is the same everywhere in the world. Its money is complete and guaranteed; its expenditures are outside the accounts. Who appoints the general secretary of the Red Crescent? Does a minister appoint him? No, he is appointed by the Red Crescent society. Can the Majles question him? No.

In these circumstances we are in, is the matter of Islamic propaganda, the matter of the culture of Islam, just as important as aid? Must we finger this organization and say that if we give a little money to the Islamic Propaganda Organization we must be able to question it, and it must therefore be under a ministry? In our circumstances with the cultural invasion, aren't culture and Islamic propaganda just as important and sensitive as the Red Crescent? Just because we aid a clergyman outside the country so he can be a spokesman for Islam, must we keep domestic accounts on it and get a receipt from him so that when the Majles asks what we did with this 100,000 tumans we will be able to say we gave it to so-and-so? Is this all the importance it has?

I therefore say that it is not a general principle that every time a rial from the government's general budget is spent somewhere it should be able to be questioned. We do not accept this, and no one in the world accepts it. The planners of the parliamentary system in the world have made an exception in one case; there is an exception in our own country, and there are other instances like the Red Crescent. Who said we have to question whatever aid we give? We really must ask God to deliver us from extremism and excess. At the beginning of the revolution we did not make organizations and institutions, and we are not falling short now.

[19 Jun p 15]

[FBIS Translated Text] News Division—In yesterday's issue of the newspaper we printed the first part of the interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi—'Araqi, chief of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, concerning the motion in the Majles to consolidate the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Islamic Propaganda Organization, the Qom Arts Seminary, and the Qom Seminary Islamic Propaganda Office, and we now direct you to the continuation of his interview.

It is necessary to mention that at the outset, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI contacted the relevant parties with regard to this motion and sought their views, but so far none of them except the chief of the Islamic Propaganda Organization has been willing to be interviewed.

In this regard we sought interviews with the chairman of the Majles Guidance Commission, the chief of the Qom Seminary Islamic Propaganda Office, and the deputy minister of Islamic guidance for legislative and parliamentary affairs, but unfortunately they were not willing to give their views. Nonetheless, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI is still willing to publish the views of the parties relevant to this motion or the views of other experts.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Will the Ministry of Guidance be able to carry out the duties of these three organizations?

[Mohammadi-'Araqi] Islamic propaganda work, which is related to the clergy and the public, is beyond the purview of a government organization, and it cannot do work related to that. As you know, the Ministry of Guidance was created by consolidating two ministries that existed prior to the revolution. Many people do not know this. Before the revolution we had two ministries: one was the Ministry of Culture and Art, and the other was the Ministry of Information and Tourism, which were consolidated and converted to the Ministry of Guidance. There are now some 20 organizations and bodies affiliated with it, such as the organizations for the Haj, pilgrimages, and mortmain, the Cultural Heritage Organization, the Iran and World Tourism Organization, as well as the publications under its mantle. I cannot say that the Ministry of Guidance is not capable of doing this work. If we really have very strong and powerful management, we may be able to consolidate the Islamic Propaganda Organization, the Islamic Propaganda Office, and the Arts Seminary into this ministry. If the basis is centralization, many other places ought to be consolidated with it also. We should consolidate the Intellectual Cultivation Society with it. What does this society do? It does cultural and training work for youth and children. If we are to consolidate all the cultural work in society, then we should also include the Voice and Vision Organization.

If it is actually true that our reason for consolidating all the cultural organizations using government funds is to economize—this was one of the reasons they gave, and they said we want to economize, to coordinate organizations, to prevent duplicated effort, and to avoid repetition—then we should consolidate all the organizations that use the government's general budget in some way.

Now, other than the Ministry of Guidance, whose work is general, all three of these bodies the gentlemen mentioned have cultural, Islamic propaganda, and artistic elements. In any case, the extent to which they will be successful is up to us in the Islamic Propaganda Organization. They have never come and consolidated another organization in the country that does cultural work. If this must be done, then this will really require very strong management, and it is possible that we may have such strong management in the country that, God willing, we will have it.

I am making no special judgment with regard to the Ministry of Guidance, but I am saying that any organization that wants to carry out the missions of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, the management work of the Ministry of Guidance, the work of the Islamic Propaganda Office, and even the work of other offices, under this reasoning they will have to have "super management."

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What similarities exist between the duties of the Ministry of Guidance and the three bodies mentioned previously, and how has duplicated effort been dealt with under your tenure?

[Mohammadi-'Araqi] The issue is centralization and decentralization. Is centralization generally more desirable in cultural work or decentralization? Then where should it be centralized and where should it be decentralized? In our view the answer to this question is that both centralization and decentralization are desirable: centralization for overall policies and decentralization for implementation. As it happens, what is being discussed now is the question of whether there is duplication in the work of the Islamic Propaganda Organization and the Ministry of Guidance. I say that it both exists and does not exist. In some work it does not exist and should not exist, and in some work it exists and should exist.

With regard to the first point, I must say that centralization is neither absolutely good nor absolutely bad. Centralization is good in overall policies but bad in implementation. I state clearly that centralization will lead to the death of cultural work, and it will weaken it. Centralization is good for making policy, no matter where the authority may be.

If this Majles is to be the authority for making policy, this is not bad. We are unhappy about the fact that there is no proper authority for making policy in cultural matters, and we have raised this issue many times, but wherever it is, it does not do the job properly. Many issues are handled according to personal taste, and there is no specific single policy. If it is the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, it does not do the job properly. When you go north in the city of Tehran, most of the signs in the stores have foreign names in Latin characters dominating the Persian names.

We should at least look at these Arab countries who take these things into consideration despite their dependence on the United States. They have required their shop keepers definitely to make the Latin character signs smaller than the ones in Arabic; they do not have the right to make them bigger. On some streets in Tehran all the signs in English make it look like we are in England. Where has our national pride gone? Are Latin characters more beautiful than our Persian characters? Are those strange English names more attractive than our beautiful Persian names? Why do we use English terms for the names of stores and write them in Latin characters? In my view it is a shame for an Iranian not to give importance to his own culture, to Islam, and to his Islamic revolution. It is thus unclear which authority should make decisions on this and deal with it decisively.

This is an issue of no small importance. Don't you think it shameful and ugly for a country that has 1,000 years of rich culture to be decorating its walls and doors with characters from U.S. culture and with foreign words whose history is less than 200 years?

This is just a small example which is nonetheless important. Our answer is that policy making should be centralized and implementation should be decentralized.

In the area of cultural issues we had meetings both in the time of Dr. Larijani and in the time of Engineer Mir Salim. We discussed the duties of the Ministry of Guidance and the duties of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, and this was also approved by the exalted leader. We came to the conclusion that these duties were to be divided into three parts.

One part was the special duties of the Ministry of Guidance, which have nothing to do with the Islamic Propaganda Organization. Whether you look at making policy or some implementation responsibilities, such as authorizing libraries and supervising them or supervising hotels, public places, and guest houses, these are the duties of the Ministry of Guidance; they are not our duties. Authorizing the printing of books and publications is also a Ministry of Guidance duty, along with licensing newspapers and magazines.

The Islamic Propaganda Organization has only two or three comparable responsibilities, such as supervising the printing of the glorious Koran for accuracy and precision.

If you go to the Koran Institute, you will see 20 people with glasses grown thick from reading the Koran word by word. The exalted leader has ordered this because erroneous Korans were being printed in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this made the world attack us, saying we had distorted the Koran and that Iran's Koran is wrong.

In the time of his holiness the imam (peace be upon him), the responsibility of supervising the Koran was assigned to the Islamic Propaganda Organization. Therefore, whoever wishes to print a Koran must go to the Islamic Propaganda Organization. Praise God, the Korans printed in the Islamic Republic of Iran are much more error-free than the ones printed in Saudi Arabia. Our own group has objected to the Korans printed in Saudi Arabia, but they have not been able to object to the Korans that are now being printed in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We give authorization to religious delegations, and this no longer has anything to do with the Ministry of Guidance. If we make a film, we get a permit to show it from the Ministry of Guidance. Thus there is a group of responsibilities specific to the Ministry of Guidance and another group specific to the Islamic Propaganda Organization.

With regard to the sending of missionaries, has anyone yet heard of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance sending missionaries? Training and sending missionaries and relations with the seminaries and professors are duties of the Islamic Propaganda Organization. Our duties also include Islamic programs, delegations, and societies and planning, supporting, and guiding public propaganda and camps.

On the question of art, for which some of the gentlemen may have concerns, the duties of the Islamic Propaganda Organization include organizing Muslim artists into one sector.

Two groups of responsibilities have thus been specified. There are also places where they overlap, but here there is no problem with regard to duplication. They are saying there is a problem with duplicated effort. The question is, who said that duplicated effort is always bad? You should come and prove this. We have tasks parallel to the Ministry of Guidance in the area of publications; they have publications and we have them as well. What is the problem if there are 10 publication offices? Who said every case of duplicated effort is bad? Moreover, they do not use that much from the government's budget. We may pay a small subsidy on the price. You know that the books published by Islamic Propaganda Organization Publications are cheaper than other comparable books.

The policy on publications should be centralized, but as for the publications themselves, the more the better. Who said that duplication of these is bad? I will give an example from artistic work. If artistic work is a responsibility of the Ministry of Guidance and it makes a film, it is thought questionable. We say let it make films, and let the Islamic Propaganda Organization make films also. You say this is duplicated effort, but what is the problem? This in itself creates a kind of positive competition. This is especially true in artistic work, where the community of artists is such that it is impossible for an organization to gather them all together. There should be various spaces and management groups so that whoever wishes to work with the Ministry of Guidance can go there, and whoever wishes to work with the Islamic Propaganda Organization can go there.

We have many duplicated tasks in the country. We have duplication in agriculture and industry. We believe that in art and propaganda it is really good to have duplication, and we prove this because the nature of artistic work and the character of artists are such that there must be a variety of places, while policy making and supervision must be unified. Who said that implementation should be done only in one place? Let them make films in 10 places, and let them do it with government help also. What is the problem? Let the government even give aid to the private sector in the making of films, of course under unified policy. What is the problem if they come somewhere and do Islamic art?

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What is the exalted leader's view concerning the dissolution of the three bodies and their consolidation in the Ministry of Guidance?

[Mohammadi-'Araqi] Since I have permission to do so from the exalted leader of the revolution, I will state his view clearly. It will be good if we first briefly review the history of the issue. When Mr. Larijani became minister of Islamic guidance, he discussed the issue of consolidating the Islamic Propaganda Organization with the Ministry of Guidance at a meeting attended by the exalted leader. The exalted leader said that consolidation is not an appropriate solution. If there were overlapping responsibilities, we were to sit down and work them out. We had a meeting with Mr. Larijani in which we discussed these matters, but the discussion was not continued before he left the Ministry of Guidance.

This issue was also raised during the ministry of Mr. Mir Salim. When he became minister, again we went to the exalted leader and raised the issue of consolidating the Islamic Propaganda Organization. Once again, he said consolidation is not necessarily the solution and that the evidence for that exists. He said, you sit down and work it out if there are overlapping responsibilities. We did have one meeting with Eng. Mir Salim, but there was no second meeting.

He also sent a letter to the exalted leader proposing that the Islamic Propaganda Organization be added to the Ministry of Guidance while retaining its own organization. Again, the exalted leader's answer was negative. I said to Mr. Mir Salim that the exalted leader's answer was clear. I told him to propose the same idea, that a group be formed to divide responsibilities if there is overlap. He sent a letter to the exalted leader and proposed that the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Islamic Propaganda Organization, a representative from the exalted leader's office and a representative from the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organizations meet and discuss the question.

The exalted leader's office sent his view in writing to the minister, saying that it is good for a group to be formed but that it should come from the organization itself and the Ministry of Guidance. If necessary this can be done with arbitration from the exalted leader's office, but this is not necessary elsewhere.

All this happened more than a year ago. We accept the fact that there is a problem and we know that the situation is not desirable, but we do not at all consider the solution to the problem to be dissolution and consolidation. As far as I am aware, the exalted leader does not consider dissolution and consolidation to be the appropriate solution at all.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What solutions do you propose to solve the problems?

[Mohammadi-'Araqi] When I went to the Guidance Commission and discussed the motion's defects and it was rejected, I offered to propose solutions if they were to be discussed.

We have conducted experiments in connection with foreign propaganda, and the documents and papers are available for that. From the first letter I wrote to the exalted leader and the first time I spoke with the president of the republic until the formation of this cultural and communications organization, I have pursued this very policy of centralization in policy making and supervision and decentralization in implementation.

On this basis we proposed a plan placing a supreme council at the head of these organizations with members to be appointed by the exalted leader and to include the minister of guidance, the foreign minister, and the chief of the Islamic Propaganda Organization. Two experts on cultural and propaganda affairs were also added. Another member is the president of the International House of God Society. This is the Supreme Policy Council. This council, with the exalted leader's confirmation, appoints a manager, and currently Mr. Taskhiri holds this position.

Apart from the fact that the minister is a member of that council, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has the missions of support and government and Majles relations. We have been conducting and working on this experiment for two years to make it into a mature plan, but this is still an experiment and we want to know if it will be successful or not. We want to keep relations with the government, with the Majles, and with the leadership and we want to keep the nature of the work with the people, even using the model of the armed forces.

In the letter they wrote to the exalted leader they said that the Ministry of Guidance should have the same role in relation to the propaganda apparatus as the Ministry of Defense has in relation to the armed forces. We have the model of the judiciary and the model of the armed forces, and based on this experiment we have made a plan for international propaganda work. We are waiting to see what the answer will be to this experiment. If the experiment is successful, we will do this elsewhere. This is one of the reasons we should have a supreme authority for decisionmaking and supervision, so it will be able to make policy and will also have ways for implementation.

This is the general form of the solutions. As for the fact that there is overlap of executive responsibilities among the organizations and that they should not interfere with each other's work, the solution to that is to divide executive responsibilities. If work is to be done with regard to the mosques, then three organizations should no longer work on this. If we can do small tasks in the rural areas and small cities, then the Ministry of Guidance should no longer be running a small cultural complex while the Islamic Propaganda Organization is running another one.

Therefore, our solution is: first, a single authority should be created for making policy, expert work, and supervision; second, there should be decentralization in implementation along with careful division of responsibilities.

In this division, however, the essence of Islamic propaganda work, the role of the clergy, the role of the people, and the place of the leadership must be laid down. If we forget the role of the people here, we will definitely be hurting Islamic propaganda. The delicacy of work with the public is quite important. They must be seen in this plan. Unfortunately, in the plan to dissolve and consolidate and form a new government organization, none of these principles are observed.

You certainly know that we have no organization higher than the military organizations. The military organizations are the most centralized kinds of organizations in which the system of an orderly hierarchy and a unified command must be strong.

This very unity of command in the military has its limits, however. It is not absolute, and the reason for that is that military organizations all over the world are this way. For example, while we have unified command, even now we also have two parallel command organizations. One is the Security and Intelligence Organization. One officer is commander of a military unit, and beside him is a security and intelligence agent or officer. The entire world has accepted this. Unity of command does not mean that security and intelligence should be subject to this command.

What finds meaning in our country and also has national principles is the Political-Ideological Directorate. The Political-Ideological Directorate is not under the commander either. Then where did the unified command go? Even in the military organization, which is the main place for unified command, we have accepted that it is in our interest to have parallel commands in two organizations—one the intelligence apparatus and the other the ideological apparatus—neither of which is subject to command structure. We have done this for a special reason. Our interests dictate that we must not treat unified command as absolute there. Unified command does not mean that the clergyman in a battalion should be under its commander's authority. Unified command does not mean that the official in charge of security and intelligence is also under that unit's commander. Thus unified command has a special meaning and is not absolute, much less not with cultural organizations.

We now have various cultural organizations in the private sector. Must we also turn them into government organizations? It is regrettable that in all other areas we are now talking about privatization and making organizations non-governmental. We say the government should help and we are even selling factories at prices much lower than their real value. When we get to the cultural sector, however, we say no, here everything must be brought into the framework of a single ministry!

Thus, if the issue is the budget and economizing, we do not accept this at all, and really even if there is an insignificant savings, it is not worth it to ignore those other interests and lower the status of the work to that of an office.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What is the nature of the coordination of propaganda outside the country among the propaganda organizations, and what results has it achieved?

[Mohammadi-'Araqi] Beginning about two years ago, work was done on a plan which produced results several months ago. The general form of the plan was the same thing I have described for you: a supreme council with specific responsibilities is formed, appointed by the exalted leader, for making policy and supervising, along with an organization called the Cultural Organization whose chief is to be recommended by the supreme council, approved by the exalted leader, and appointed by the minister of guidance. In addition to the fact that its minister is a member of that council, the Ministry of Guidance will support it; that is, this organization will follow that council in terms of policies and programs, and it will follow the Ministry of Guidance, which has the role of Majles and government relations, in terms of administrative and support regulations. This is an experiment whose results we have not yet given, but we think that this way is the best solution. God willing, this program, if successful, can be used as a model elsewhere.

Pakistan

Bhutto Terms Brown Amendment 'Diplomatic Victory'

BK2709134795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said the passage of Brown Amendment by U.S. Senate is moral and diplomatic victory of Pakistan and it proves our uncompromising stand on principles. She said this while talking to MNA's [members of National Assembly], who called on her in Islamabad today. The MNA's congratulated the prime minister over the diplomatic success and assured her that they will continue supporting her war against illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, corruption, and nepotism.

The prime minister assured George Clement, MNA, that her government will continue looking after the prosperity and well-being of the minorities, which is manifestation of religious tolerance and freedom as enunciated by Islam. The MNA's, who called on the prime minister, include Mr. George Clement, Mr. Khalid Javed Gurki, Chaudhry Narez Shakoor, Haji Mohammad nawaz Khokar, and Chaudhry Omar Daraz, ex-MNA.

Minister Arrives in New York for UN Session

BK2709052395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has arrived in New York to lead the Pakistan delegation to the 50th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He will address the General Assembly this morning.

In New York, the foreign minister will be participating at the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] Contact Group meetings on Kashmir, Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Afghanistan. He will also attend the annual coordination ministerial meeting of the OIC. The foreign minister is scheduled to meet the foreign ministers of various countries including China, Iran, Malaysia, Turkey, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He will call on the secretary general of the United Nations, Mr. Butrus Ghali, on the third of next month. At the top of the agenda at these meetings will be Kashmir, where growing Indian atrocities by Indian troops are a cause of major concern not only to Pakistan but to the entire international community.

Meets Chinese, Iranian Counterparts

BK2709144795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the United Nations, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has exchanged views with the Chinese and Iranian counterparts on bilateral relations and international issues, including Kashmir and Afghanistan.

The Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, was requested by Sardar Asif Ahamd Ali to urge India to enter into meaningful talks to settle the Kashmir dispute. Mr. Qian Qichen expressed surprise at the Indian reaction due to the proposed Brown Amendment by the United States. The Pakistan-China talks also covered nuclear disarmament and cooperation during the General Assembly session. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali thanked Mr. Qian Qichen for firm Chinese stand in the Security Council against the clandestine attempt to increase the powers of the Security Council to enforce provisions of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty even on non-signatories.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali told newsmen that his talks with the Iranian foreign minister also focussed on the Islamic world, including the situation in Bosnia. Iran reiterated full support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. The two countries decided to cooperate with each other at various contact groups on Bosnia, Kashmir, Palestine, and Afghanistan. The Iranian foreign minister expressed his regret and outrage at the burning down of the Pakistan mission in Kabul and the loss of life and property there.

The Iranian and Chinese foreign ministers appreciated Pakistan's positive efforts to restore peace in Afghanistan. In this connection, they offered all out support to the Pakistani initiatives.

Foreign Minister Addresses Assembly

BK2809044695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has urged the UN General Assembly to exert pressure on India to stop its serious human rights violations immediately and implement the Security Council resolution by holding a plebiscite in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the General Assembly in New York last night, he discussed the tragic situation in occupied Kashmir as well as developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Afghanistan.

The foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's proposal to enter into a dialogue for the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute through the efforts or mediation of the UN secretary general, the president of the General Assembly, or any peace-loving country under any modality or arrangement. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali told the General Assembly that once the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is resolved, it will open the door for a solution to all other India-Pakistan disputes. He regretted that India has failed to respond to Pakistan's offer of meaningful dialogue on the Kashmir issue. He rejected the Indian stance that the Security Council resolutions are outdated and asked what the world would look like if countries were allowed to reject United Nations resolutions unilaterally.

He informed the assembly that rather than opting for peace, India has started an arms race. It has increased tension by developing and deploying missiles under one pretext or another. He said as a result of this Indian arms buildup, Pakistan has no choice but to rethink its options. The foreign minister asked the world body to take notice of the grave situation created by the refusal of India's leaders to recognize reality.

He said India must take the necessary steps to resolve the long- standing Kashmir dispute and stop massacring the Kashmiri people through the use of military force.

He said the international community must exert pressure on India to save South Asia's 1 billion people from the threat of war that has been emanating from India's leaders.

Stresses 'Neutrality' in Afghan Policy

BK2809080995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said that Pakistan will continue to maintain neutrality and noninterference in Afghanistan's internal affairs in order to preserve its friendship and fraternal ties with the Afghan nation. Addressing the 50th session of the UN General Assembly in New York last night, he said Pakistan assures the Afghan people that it will stand with them in their hour of trial, as it has in the past. He added that the recent provocative incident of burning down the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul would not affect our steadfastness based on the principles of noninterference. We are convinced that peace can only be restored in Afghanistan through mutual accommodation and national reconciliation.

Indian Helicopter Said Intercepted at Border

BK2709162395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An Indian helicopter, which strayed over the [Kashmir] Line of Control at high altitude this morning, was intercepted by PAF [Pakistan Air Force] aircraft inside Pakistan teritory. An ISPR [Inter-Service Public Relations] spokesman said in Rawalpindi that the helicopter could have been brought down, but finding that it was unarmed and did not have any hostile intent, it was allowed to go back.

Report on Leghari View of Nuclear Plan, Economics

BK2209110295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 22 Sep 95 pp 1, 13

[Report by "Our Staff Reporter": "N-Plan for Economic Uplift Says Laghari"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LAHORE — President Farooq Ahmad Leghari has said four out of 32 foreign investment projects have been materialised till now and more investment is flowing into the country which has increased by 28 times the private investment this year.

Talking informally to the newsmen after the international Business Conference at Alhamra on Thursday [21 September] he said it is hard to allure the foreign investors but it is a good omen that the government has succeed in channelising the flow of foreign investment in to Pakistan and dozens of projects in the fields of refinery and power are going to be started.

When the journalists tried to ask the president to comment on the Punjab political situation, he smilingly said "You are all my friends", and he would like to answer queries concerning the Conference to give a message to the outside world about Pakistan.

To a question the president said in the last one and half years the deficit has been lowered down from eight percent to five percent and the government in violation of the IMF conditionalities did not lower down to four percent because it would have further burdened the people with taxes and price hikes. He further said in the last 10 years money supply has been increased unhindered while there was no real economic growth which resultantly created a difference of 14 percent in the supply of money and the real economic growth.

He said the government is paying attention toward increasing the growth rate besides imposing monetary discipline to further decrease the fiscal deficit which would have a healthy effect on the economy. When he was asked whether the Western world is holding back our researches from sensitive technology after our nuclear capability, the president said it could also be one of the reasons but he explained our nuclear capability is for peaceful economic development and we have no designs to establish military hegemony. He dispelled the impression that there is no confrontation of ideologies of the Western world and Islam because our religion teaches us freedom and peace.

Earlier addressing the Conference President Leghari said the destiny of Muslims is intertwined as they have emotional attachment with each other and they all belong to the south. He further said it is easy to blame Western world for our dismal performance in the economic development where as we should blame ourselves for our failures.

He said if the Muslim governments do not prepare themselves for the economic development of their countries their businessmen should come forward to do business and the Conference would prove a catalyst to expand trade in south.

He further said backwardness in technology's lack of research, low literacy rate and undeveloped human resource base are the real issues in Pakistan like other Muslim countries of the world which has made us slaves to the other societies and our Muslim businessmen should come forward to remove these serious constraints.

President said changes are made to the investment code to allow foreign residents without prior government approval in all but a few specified instances such as arms and ammunition, currency and mint and radioactive materials. He further said foreign ownership in 100 percent of the equity of an industrial concern in Pakistan has been permitted and remittances of dividends on shares held by non- residents are now allowed without prior approval of the State Bank.

The President said since Pakistan has great potential of agriculture but our researches do not bother to go to the rural areas to educate the farmers on new lines and the similar is the problem with the rest of the Muslim countries. He further said our scientists are deliberately kept away from the research on development oriented subjects in the West and we should try to establish our own research centres for development.

President Farooq Leghari has said foreign investment during 1994- 95 has been recorded at $1532.7 million, which is 2.5 times the foreign investment of $642.7 million in the preceding year.

Addressing the international Business Conference held under the auspices of Pak Business Forum in collaboration with Institute of Management and Leadership at Alhamra on Thursday he said the fiscal reforms have enabled the government to mobilise record additional resources of about Rs [Rupees] 53.9 billion which has caused the fiscal deficit to decline from 7.9 percent of GDP in 1992-93 to 5.5 percent in 1994-95 and our target for the current year is 5 percent of GDP.

President Leghari said the foreign delegates participating in the Conference will enormously benefit from this occasion for their future plans of the business and investment in Pakistan.

He further said most of the foreign delegates are already acquainted with the richness of our natural resources, diversity of climate and abundance of a hard working, skilled and enterprising work force.

In addition, Pakistan has launched a programme of reforms in all walks of life that makes it an attractive place to invest, he added. Leghari said it is proper environment and the economic potential of the country that has generated investors interest and Pakistan has implemented wide ranging measures to improve the economic performance.

The President further said in addition to the consolidation of the fiscal position and improved monetary discipline the economic programme has emphasised realignment of relative prices, a greater reliance on market forces and the rehabilitation of economic and social infrastructure.

Report on Air Force Plans for F-16's, Mirages

BK2609081895 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 25 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by "special analyst" Mohammed Saleh Zafir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad — Spain, Belgium, Zaire, Gabon, and Lebanon have offered to sell Pakistan Mirage aircraft currently in use by their air forces. Meanwhile, the United States has contacted the Eastern European countries Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia about selling them the F-16's that were built for Pakistan. Similar contacts have been made with Indonesia and Philippines in this regard.

This was disclosed by Air Marshal Abbass Khattak, chief of the Air Staff, while talking exclusively to JANG at a diplomatic gathering. He said Pakistan is not hopeful about getting the F-16's; that is why the decision has been made to purchase new Mirage 2000's. He said that Pakistan's experiment in acquiring used Mirage aircraft from Australia was successful. The planes were upgraded to meet the latest requirements and are now delivering the required service.

The air chief said that the offers of in-use Mirages are being considered. The condition and price of the aircraft will be considered. He dispelled the impression that Belgium has refused to sell Mirages to Pakistan and said no decision has been made in this regard. Abbas Khattak said the F-16 is an aircraft of the 1970's that has now reached middle age. The Pakistan Air Force [PAF] is now planning to acquire the latest aircraft, which would make it a prominent air force in the coming century. He expressed confidence that the Pakistan Air Force will always meet the people's expectations in facing the challenges of our enemies.

When asked about numerous recent crashes of Indian air force planes in which the Indian pilots bailed out to save their own lives, the air chief said this is a difference for which the Pakistani nation can be proud — its pilots try to save the airplane as well as protect their own lives. This is a valuable part of their training. The air chief said the difference between the Pakistani and Indian Air Forces is not just the airplanes but also the capability and morale of the pilots. This is a superiority that can never be surpassed by our enemy.

Responding to a question, he said that with the softening of the Pressler Amendment the friends and allies of the United States will no longer be reluctant to cooperate with Pakistan in the defense field. He said Pakistan is unlikely to get back the entire amount that was paid for the F-16's because the aircraft manufacturer will charge the vendor $68 million in damages and the U.S. company will probably be unable to make up the difference. He said that if they buy the aircraft from the United States the Eastern European countries will not receive the same facilities as in their deals with Russia, so they will only buy the F-16's after serious consideration.

The air chief also said that preparations are underway for the PAF exercise called High Mark, which is scheduled to start next month.

Government, MQM Teams Begin Discussion

BK2209122695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 21 Sep 95 p 1, 10

[Article by Nasir Iqbal: "Govt, MQM Teams Start 'Itemised Discussion'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: The Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) and government negotiating teams Wednesday [27 September] initiated itemised discussion on the two charters of demands with the MQM representatives denouncing the drug and land mafia and small opportunist political groups for creating differences between the two.

Ajmal Dehlvi, the chief negotiator of the MQM, emphasised that both sides clearly know about the elements that are creating difficulties for evolving a consensus on the two team's charters of demands.

He reiterated that the MQM has never been involved in terrorism in Karachi. It has only exercised its democratic right to protest in the shape of strikes.

Today's discussion was the second in the ongoing ninth round of talks with both sides admitting that the present session could stretch longer. They touched four to five points of their respective 18 and 21 points charters.

Both sides refrained from divulging which were the points that came under discussion. The talks will resume on Thursday at the Law Ministry at 3 p.m.

Dehlvi told journalists that after reaching a consensus on all points, ways and means will be devised to implement the understanding reached between the two within a timeframe.

Law Minister Prof [Professor] N D Khan, the head of the government team, on the other hand said that no timeframe can be given when the talks are going to end.

Khan rejected outright the rumour that the MQM under its one- point formula had demanded removal of the Sindh Chief Minister. He said such rumours are being circulated to sabotage the talks.

He said a fruitful discussion took place today in a friendly atmosphere according to the two-pronged strategy both adopted yesterday.

"We discussed all kind of possibilities that can play a role in restoring peace in Karachi. We are trying to arrive at a consensus that could lead to an accord, said N D Khan.

He conceded that he witnessed a positive and constructive changes in the attitude of the MQM negotiating team. The Minister said, "We are making the exercise on quid pro quo basis and terrorism is being sought to be curbed through joint efforts".

When told that the Interior Minister earlier in the day had said that the government was trying to extradite Altaf Hussain from London, the Law Minister simply said "Ask him not me".

Ajmal Dehlvi dispelled the impression that the parties at the talks were not sincere in achieving any tangible results. The continuation of negotiations is reflective of the fact that we are making progress, he said.

Delhlvi said, We will touch upon all the points of the charters of demands that concern the fundamental political rights and try to achieve unanimity on all of them." He said a solution is not that easy to find because the demands of the government concern peace those of the MQM are related to rights. "If the rights are ensured then the restoration of peace can also be guaranteed," he observed.

He assured that they will try to avoid longer breaks during the negotiations.

Karachi Talks Suspended Over Murder Controversy

BK2609123995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1200 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept 26 (AFP) — The ethnic-based Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] has decided to stay away from the Karachi peace talks with the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the party said Tuesday [26 September].

The party, announcing the decision in Karachi, said it was in protest against the killing of two MQM activists two days ago. The MQM has charged that the two men were "brutally tortured" and killed by security forces.

The government's chief negotiator Law Minister Nabi Dad Khan, said here his team would initiate contacts with the MQM to keep the dialogue on track.

"It is not a boycott or a deadlock," Khan told reporters, as a scheduled 10th round of talks here did not take place.

Khan refuted MQM allegations that the two MQM members, Saeed alias Negro and Saeed Asif Zaidi, were killed in police custody in Karachi.

He said the two were wanted in numerous "heinous crimes" and that they were killed in a clash with police.

He said the MQM decision was "incomprehensible" because "substantial progress" had been made in the previous round of talks in sorting out their demands and ways of restoring complete peace to Karachi.

The MQM, which also alleged that the bodies of the two activisits were "desecrated" by security personnel, said it was not calling off the dialogue with the government.

"We are postponing our presence at the talks until the government responds to our charges," Tariq Javed, a member of the MQM negotiation team, told AFP in Karachi.

Earlier this week, the head of the MQM negotiating team Ajmal Dehlvi, had announced that the MQM would not abandon the talks despite the fact that they were stagnating.

Meanwhile, sporadic incidents of arson occurred in Karachi after the MQM decision, with four people reported killed since late Monday.

More than 1,400 people have been killed there in religious and political violence this year.

The MQM represents the Urdu-speaking Muhajir community made up of migrants from India who arrived after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947.

The government blames the MQM for much of the violence in Karachi. The party denies its involvement, blaming the unrest on the government's discrimination against the Muhajir community.

Suspension of Talks Said Unjustified

BK2609140095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 10th round of government-Altaf Group talks, which was scheduled for today, could not be held as the Altaf Group negotiating team failed to reach Islamabad. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, federal minister and leader of the government negotiating team, Professor N.D. Khan, said there is no justification for Altaf Group to suspend its talks with the government. He termed it as a temporary suspension, saying this is not a deadlock or discontinuation, but simply a suspension in talks. He said the suspension will not persist as he has directed his team members to contact Altaf Group team for resumption of talks. Prof. N.D. Khan said it is the resolve of the government not to let the talk suspension continue for a long time.

Referring to a fax message received by him from Altaf Group negotiating team, Prof. N.D. Khan recalled that the parleys between two sides had been moving along positive lines and they had already covered five to six points of the agenda of the two teams during their previous round. He said the government side had agreed to their demand for nominating a liaison officer to look into their grievances of an immediate nature. He said his side had broached several more ideas with their counterparts from Altaf Group to restore peace in Karachi. He said there is no point to suspend the ongoing talks on the pretext of killing of two persons in Karachi a couple of days back, who were involved in heinous crimes and nominated [as heard] in 60 cases. He wondered as to why Altaf Group has owned the two terrorists. Prof. N.D. Khan said despite the attitude of Altaf Group, the government is all for continuing parleys with them unconditionally. He added that they would contact the other side and do everything possible to bring back Altaf Group team to the negotiating table.

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